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Part C

Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese and other provisions

Chapter A

Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Dodecanese

Article 317

Ecclesiastical Status of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos

1. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos are under the direct, canonical, ecclesiastical and spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
2. The ecclesiastical status of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos applies within the geographical boundaries of the Dodecanese, as defined in Law 518/1948 (A' 7).
3. The Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese participate in the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in accordance with the applicable canons and ecclesiastical provisions, and commemorate the name of the Ecumenical Patriarch.
4. Within the boundaries of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and any religious service or sacred rite by clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ who do not belong to the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese or to the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall be permitted, only upon authorization from the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, respectively. Otherwise, the sacred rites of marriage and baptism in particular are invalid and are not registered in the civil registries.
5. All Orthodox Christians residing in the Dodecanese are members of the respective Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.

Article 318

Legal Personality of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos

1. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, in their legal relations, are Legal Entities under Public Law and are represented by the competent Metropolitan and the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos or by representatives appointed by them.
2. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, their Parishes and Holy Monasteries, as well as the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, shall be subject to the provisions governing the General Government and the public sector regarding their organization and administration, their overall property and financial management, and their officials and personnel, only insofar these provisions specify it expressly. Existing general or specific provisions which explicitly provide for state supervision over the above Legal Entities under Public Law, their administration and management, their fiscal and administrative control, as well as the recruitment procedures and the employment status of their personnel of any category, shall not be affected. Administrative acts of the above Legal Entities under Public Law, for which they receive grants or funding from national or European resources, shall be subject to the provisions governing state or public contracts and the supervision and control applicable to the management of state and European resources.

Article 319

Number and names of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese

The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, in the order determined by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, are as follows:

- a. the Holy Metropolis of Rhodes, with its seat in the city of Rhodes,
- b. the Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros, with its seat in the city of Kos,
- c. the Holy Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia, with its seat in Platanos, Leros,
- d. the Holy Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos, with its seat in Aperi, Karpathos, and
- e. the Holy Metropolis of Symi, with its seat in the city of Symi.

Article 320

Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos

1. The Holy Island of Patmos, the islands of Lipsi, Arki, Marathi, Agathonisi, Farmakonisi and Levitha, as well as all islands and islets, including rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipalities of Patmos, Agathonisi and Lipsi, constitute the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, whose canonical Bishop is the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch.
2. The current Abbot of the Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic and Communal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist of the Holy Island of Patmos is the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos. The Ecumenical Patriarch shall notify the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of the appointment of the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, and the Minister shall issue a relevant confirmatory act published in the Government Gazette.
3. The Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos is the spiritual head and the legal representative and administrator of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, subject to the administrative competences of the Exarchal Council as determined by the presidential decree of paragraph 4 of article 337.
4. The vacancy of the position of the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the appointment of a locum tenens of the Abbacy shall be announced by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, who shall issue a relevant confirmatory act published in the Government Gazette.
5. The territorial boundaries of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall not be altered.
6. The name of the Ecumenical Patriarch is commemorated in the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.

Article 321

Boundaries of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese

1. The Holy Metropolis of Rhodes comprises all islands and islets, including the rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipality of Rhodes.
2. The Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros comprises all islands and islets, including the rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipality of Kos and the Municipality of Nisyros.
3. The Holy Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalaia comprises all islands and islets, including the rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipalities of Astypalaia, Kalymnos and Leros, excluding the islands of Farmakonisi and Levitha.

4. The Holy Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos comprises all islands and islets, including the rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipality of Karpathos and the Municipality of the Heroic Island of Kasos.
5. The Holy Metropolis of Symi comprises all islands and islets, including the rocky islets, whether inhabited or uninhabited, within the territorial limits of the Municipality of Symi, the Municipality of Tilos, the Municipality of Chalki, and the Municipality of Megisti.
6. The boundaries of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese may be modified by law, following a reasoned decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the consent of the competent Metropolitan but the division of an existing Parish between Metropolises is not permitted.
7. The boundaries of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese cannot be altered during the period of their administration by a Patriarchal Bishop.

Article 322

Establishment, Abolition and Merger of a Holy Metropolis

1. The establishment of a new Holy Metropolis in the Dodecanese shall be effected by law, following a reasoned decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which must specify the name, seat and territorial boundaries of the new Metropolis, and with the consent of the Metropolitan from whose Metropolis the geographical area is being detached.
2. The abolition and merger of a Holy Metropolis in the Dodecanese shall be effected by law, following a reasoned decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the consent of the competent Metropolitan.
3. For the establishment, abolition or merger of a Holy Metropolis, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall request, through the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the opinion of the Municipal Councils of the competent Municipalities. Such opinion must be provided within thirty (30) days from the date of the request; otherwise, the procedure shall continue without it.

Article 323

Election of a Metropolitan

1. Eligible candidates for the position of Metropolitan shall be those who meet all of the following criteria: a) are unmarried and have completed at least five (5) years since the date of their ordination b) are Greek citizens, citizens of other member states of the European Union (EU), or Greeks residing abroad c) possess the health required to perform their duties d) have not been finally convicted by ecclesiastical or criminal courts e) have reached the thirty-fifth (35th) year of age f) hold a degree from an Orthodox Theological School of a domestic Higher Educational Institution or an equivalent degree from a foreign institution of corresponding discipline, or a degree from the Theological School of Chalki g) have at least five (5) years of service following the acquisition of their degree, in one or more of the following positions: ga) Grand Protosyncellus of the Holy Great Church of Christ, or Protosyncellus of a Holy Archdiocese or Metropolis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate or the Church of Greece or the Church of Crete gb) Chief secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate or the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece or the Holy Provincial Synod of the Church of Crete gc) any other senior official of the Patriarchal Court gd) Preacher of a Holy Metropolis, or parish priest of a Holy Church of the aforementioned Churches or of the Armed or Security Forces (ge) Abbot of a Holy Patriarchal and

- Stavropegic Monastery, or other Holy Monastery of the aforementioned Churches in which at least five (5) monks reside (gf) Director or Professor of an Ecclesiastical School or public secondary school, or Professor of any rank at domestic Theological Schools, or the Programs of Priestly Studies of Higher Ecclesiastical Academies or the Theological School of Chalki.
2. The lack of any formal qualification of those listed in paragraph 1 automatically renders the election for the position of Metropolitan of the Dodecanese invalid.
 3. The Metropolitan shall be elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate within six (6) months from the declaration of the vacancy of the Metropolis. The elected Metropolitan shall give the prescribed Short Message before the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Great Message before the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, followed by his ordination, provided he is not already a Bishop.
 4. The Ecumenical Patriarchate shall notify in writing the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the election of the Metropolitan and shall send the minutes of the election and the documents certifying the formal qualifications of paragraph 1. The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs shall propose the issuance of a Presidential Decree recognizing and confirming the status of the elected Metropolitan within fifteen (15) days from the date of the election minutes and the documents certifying possession of the formal qualifications of paragraph 1. The Presidential Decree shall be published in the Government Gazette and sent to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which shall notify the ordained Metropolitan. The induction of the elected Metropolitan shall take place, following the publication of the relevant Presidential Decree, through the ecclesiastical ceremony of enthronement.
 5. Before their enthronement and assumption of duties, the elected Metropolitans shall make the following declaration before the President of the Republic, in the presence of a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate "I do solemnly affirm upon my Holy Ordination that, by Divine Grace, I shall fulfil my episcopal duties with all diligence and strength, strictly following the Divine and Holy Apostolic and Synodical Canons and the Holy Traditions, and I declare my obedience to the Constitution and the Laws of the State."

Article 324

Transfer of a Metropolitan

1. A Metropolitan may be transferred to another Metropolis of the Dodecanese or to a Metropolis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate outside Greece to meet the pastoral needs of the Greeks abroad, upon election by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
2. The Ecumenical Patriarchate shall notify the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the Metropolitan's transfer and the Ministry shall issue a presidential decree declaring the Metropolis vacancy.
3. In the event of a transfer to a Metropolis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate outside Greece, the Metropolitan shall continue to receive, in full, the salary of an active Metropolitan, subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 328.

Article 325

Removal of a Metropolitan

A Metropolitan may be removed from office by decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate due to canonical offenses or a final conviction for felonies or for the offenses referred to in paragraph 16 of article 336. The Ecumenical

Patriarchate shall notify the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs of the decision of removal, and a presidential decree shall be issued declaring the Metropolis' vacancy. Upon the declaration of the Metropolis as vacant, the permanent position of Archbishop held by the removed shall become vacant, and his salary shall be definitively discontinued.

Article 326

Death, resignation, and dismissal of a Metropolitan for health reasons or old age

1. In the event of the death of a serving Metropolitan, the Metropolis shall automatically be declared vacant, and the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall immediately appoint a Patriarchal Bishop from among the remaining Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, and shall notify the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in writing of such an appointment. The Patriarchal Bishop shall manage current or exceptionally urgent matters and shall not be permitted to make changes to the Parish Priests of the Holy Churches, except in exceptional cases for which the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is required.
2. In the case referred to in paragraph 1, the Protosyncellus or, where no Protosyncellus has been appointed, the General Episcopal Bishop, together with two clerics of his choosing, shall summon the Justice of the Peace and shall jointly seal and secure the property and archives of the Bishopric, until a new Metropolitan is elected. If clerics are living within the Bishopric, an inventory of movable property shall be made, and the Metropolitan's room and office shall be sealed, while their residence in the Bishopric shall continue until its delivery to the new Metropolitan.
3. If a Metropolitan wishes to resign for a serious reason or for health reasons or old age, he shall submit his resignation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. If the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate accept his resignation, the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall immediately appoint a Patriarchal Bishop from among the remaining Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and shall notify the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in writing, which shall propose the issuance of a presidential decree declaring the Metropolis vacancy. If the Metropolitan's resignation, its acceptance and the election of a new Metropolitan take place on the same day, the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall notify the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in writing, and the Minister shall issue a confirmatory act of resignation, which shall be published in the Government Gazette, without the need of a presidential decree declaring the Metropolis vacancy. Until the issuance of the presidential decree referred to in the second sentence of paragraph 4 of article 323, a Patriarchal Bishop shall be appointed without delay from among the remaining Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs shall be notified in writing.
4. If a Metropolitan, for reasons of health or old age, has fallen into a permanent and continuing state of inability to perform his duties and does not resign, he may be relieved of his duties in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 5 to 8.
5. The Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall appoint a three-member Discharge Committee, consisting of one (1) Metropolitan from among the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese as chair, and two (2) Professors of any rank from Medical Schools of the country. The chair of the Discharge Committee, through the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, shall request in writing from the Deans of the Medical Schools of the country to nominate four (4) names of Professors. By decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, two (2) Professors, together with

their alternates, shall be selected, and the three-member Discharge Committee shall be formed. The decision appointing the Discharge Committee, together with the letters of the Deans, shall be immediately communicated to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and to the Metropolitan under review.

6. The Committee shall notify the Metropolitan of the date of his examination, which may take place at a hospital, health center, or at the Metropolitan's residence. In the event that the Metropolitan refuses to be examined, it shall be deemed evidence of his incapacity, and the Committee shall, without delay, inform the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in writing.
7. The findings of the Discharge Committee shall be forwarded to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall decide on the matter at their first regular meeting following the date of receipt or at an extraordinary meeting. In the event that the Metropolitan is dismissed of his duties for the reasons referred to in paragraph 4, the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall inform the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, upon whose proposal a presidential decree shall be issued declaring the Metropolis vacancy. If the dismissal of the Metropolitan and the election of a new Metropolitan take place on the same day, the third and fourth sentences of paragraph 3 shall apply.
8. A Metropolitan who has resigned or has been relieved of his duties for health reasons or old age shall receive, for life, monthly financial support equal to the basic salary of an active Metropolitan, as provided in paragraph 1 of article 145 of Law 4472/2017 (A'74), subject to paragraph 3 of article 328. The expenditure arising from the implementation of this provision shall be borne by the regular budget of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. Any necessary details arising in the course of implementation shall be regulated by a joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and Finance.

Article 327

Duties of Metropolitans

1. The Metropolitan shall perform the duties prescribed by applicable law and the Holy Canons.
2. The Metropolitan shall be obliged to submit a detailed report on the activities and the general condition of his Metropolis to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at least annually.
3. The Metropolitan is the spiritual leader and the legal representative and administrator of the respective Metropolis, subject to the administrative competences of the Metropolitan Council, as determined by the presidential decree of paragraph 4 of article 337.

Article 328

Remuneration of Metropolitans

1. The Metropolitans of the Dodecanese shall be subject to the same salary regime as the Metropolitans of the Church of Greece and the Church of Crete and shall receive the remuneration provided for in article 145 of Law 4472/2017 (A' 74).
2. The Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos shall receive the remuneration of an Assistant Bishop, as provided for in article 145 of Law 4472/2017.
3. The Metropolitans of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos who have criminally prosecuted for the offenses referred to in paragraph 16 of article 336 shall receive fifty percent (50%) of their remuneration. If they are acquitted by a final court decision, the remaining fifty percent (50%) of their remuneration shall be paid to them upon submission of a relevant

application to the competent payroll authority. If they are convicted by a final court decision, their remuneration shall be definitively discontinued.

Article 329

Parishes

1. The Parish, together with its parish church, constitutes the basic unit of organization of ecclesiastical life and is a Legal Entity under Public Law.
2. The Parish shall be established by presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, which defines its boundaries precisely and in detail. Establishment requires an application signed by at least three hundred (300) Orthodox Christians, the consent of the Metropolitan Council, which shall determine the boundaries of the Parish precisely and in detail, and the opinion of the municipal council of the relevant Municipality. The opinion shall be provided within thirty (30) days from the date on which it is requested; otherwise, the procedure shall continue without it.
3. The center of the ecclesiastical life of the parish shall be the parish church, as determined by the decision of the Metropolitan Council.
4. By presidential decree, upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs and a decision of the competent Metropolitan Council, it is permitted to change the name, merge, or abolish a Parish.
5. Every inhabited island shall constitute at least one Parish. Uninhabited islands and islets, including rocky islets, shall mandatorily be parts of a Parish and shall be referred to in the presidential decree establishing or merging parishes.

Article 330

Holy Monasteries and Hermitages

1. A Holy Monastery is a religious institution for the spiritual practice of men or women who reside there, in accordance with the Holy Canons and the traditions of the Orthodox Church regarding monasticism. Holy Monasteries are Legal Entities under Public Law.
2. Holy Monasteries are subject to the canonical and ecclesiastical supervision of the respective Archbishops and are governed in accordance with the provisions of this law and the presidential decree referred to in paragraph 8.
3. The establishment of new Holy Monasteries, the dissolution or merger of existing ones, and the re-establishment of old Holy Monasteries shall be effected by presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the consent of the competent Metropolitan and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and provided that there is sufficient property to ensure the operation of the Holy Monastery. Churches and properties of dissolved or dissolving Monasteries shall remain the property of the Legal Entity under Public Law of the respective Holy Metropolis, or, in the event of their merger with another Monastery, shall automatically pass to the main Monastery, or, in the event of re-establishment, to the re-established Monastery.
4. The Abbots' Council of the Holy Monastery shall determine, through an Internal Regulation, all matters concerning the organization and financial management of the Holy Monastery, in accordance with the Holy Canons, the traditions of Orthodox monasticism, and the legislation of the State. The Internal Regulation shall be decided by the competent Metropolitan and the Metropolitan Council or the Exarchal Council, approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published, on penalty of nullity, in the official Bulletin of the provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese." The Internal Regulation shall enter into force as of the date of its publication.

5. The Abbot and the members of the Abbots' Council shall be elected by the monastic community, provided it consists of at least five (5) members; otherwise, they shall be appointed by the competent Metropolitan. The number of members of the Abbots' Council shall be determined, in proportion to the number of monks of each Holy Monastery, by its Internal Regulation.
6. Voters, candidates, or appointees to the positions of Abbots and members of the Abbots' Councils of Holy Monasteries shall be exclusively Greek nationals.
7. The Metropolitan shall exercise ecclesiastical supervision over the Holy Monasteries of his jurisdiction, in accordance with the Holy Canons, which is expressed through the commemoration of his name in sacred services, the appointment of the Abbot, the approval of monastic tonsure, the inquiry and adjudication of canonical offenses, the care for the proper functioning of the Monastery in accordance with the Holy Canons, and the verification of the legality of their financial management.
8. By presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the recommendation of the local Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published in the Government Gazette, general rules shall be established, on the basis of the canonical tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, for each Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, concerning: a) the conditions and procedure for entering monastic life, b) the personal and property status of monks of the Holy Monasteries and their dependencies, c) the bodies, conditions, and procedure for approving the establishment, founding, merging, abolishing, dissolving, and re-establishing of Holy Monasteries and their dependencies, d) the competent bodies, conditions, and procedure for issuing a letter of release for the transfer (departure) of monks from a Holy Monastery, e) the establishment, operation, and supervision of dependencies of Holy Monasteries within the territory of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, f) the purposes of Holy Monasteries, their administrative bodies, the election or appointment and competences thereof, the conditions for validity and publication of their decisions, and the system of administration, representation, management, organization, supervision, protection of property, and operation of Holy Monasteries and their dependencies, and g) the manner of administration and governance of deserted or abandoned Holy Monasteries. The internal regulations of Holy Monasteries may not deviate from the provisions of the presidential decree referred to in the first paragraph.
9. Orthodox Hermitages shall be established as Legal Entities under Private Law, in accordance with the applicable provisions, following prior consent of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and shall operate on the basis of their founding regulation. By presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the recommendation of the competent Metropolitan Bishop or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published in the Government Gazette, the framework for their operation shall be established for each Holy Metropolis and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos. The Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos shall exercise, over the Orthodox Hermitages of his province, the supervision prescribed by the holy canons, which is expressed through the commemoration of the name of the Ecumenical Patriarch for the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos or of the competent Metropolitan for the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese during sacred services, the appointment of the Abbot, the approval of monastic tonsure, the inquiry and adjudication of canonical offenses, the care for their operation in accordance with the holy canons, and the verification of the legality of their financial management.

Article 331

The Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic, and Communal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist

1. The Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic, and Communal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist, founded in 1088, is, in legal terms, an independent, self-governing, self-determined, and self-administered Legal Entity under Private Law, subject to the direct canonical, ecclesiastical, and spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch, is based on the Holy Island of Patmos, and is represented by the Abbot.
2. The Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic, and Communal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of the present law and the Internal Regulation.
3. The Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic, and Communal Monastic Community of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist shall determine through an Internal Regulation all matters concerning the organization, operation, administration, financial management of the Holy Monastery, as well as every other necessary detail, in accordance with the Holy Canons, the traditions of Orthodox monasticism, and the legislation of the State. The Internal Regulation shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and shall be published, on penalty of nullity, in the official Bulletin of the provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese." The Internal Regulation shall enter into force on the date of its publication.
4. Any amendment to the Internal Regulation of the Holy Royal, Patriarchal, Stavropegic, and Communal Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist, or its partial or total repeal, shall be effected either by decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, or upon the recommendation of the Elderly Assembly of the said Monastery and a decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The amendment or decision of partial or total repeal of the Internal Regulation shall be published, on penalty of nullity, in the official Bulletin of the provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese." The amendment or repeal shall enter into force on the date of its publication.
5. Voters, candidates, or appointees to the position of Abbot and members of the Elderly Assembly shall be exclusively Greek nationals.

Article 332

Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries

1. The Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries located within the geographical limits referred to in paragraph 2 of article 317 are the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Saint George of Vasson, situated within the geographical boundaries of the Holy Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos, and the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Archangel Michael of Roukouniotes, situated within the geographical boundaries of the Holy Metropolis of Symi.
2. The Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries referred to in paragraph 1 are Legal Entities under Public Law, are subject to the direct canonical, ecclesiastical, and spiritual jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch, and are governed in accordance with the provisions of this law and the Internal Regulation of paragraph 3.
3. The Abbots' Council of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery shall determine through an Internal Regulation all matters concerning its organization, operation, administration, and financial management, in accordance with the Holy Canons, the traditions of Orthodox

monasticism, and the laws of the State. The Internal Regulation shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and shall be published, on penalty of nullity, in the official Bulletin of the provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese." The Internal Regulation shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

4. The Abbot and the members of the Abbots' Council shall be elected by the monastic community, provided it consists of at least five (5) members; otherwise, they shall be appointed by the Ecumenical Patriarch. The number of members of the Abbots' Council shall be determined, in proportion to the number of monks in each Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery, by its Internal Regulation.
5. Voters, candidates, or appointees to the positions of Abbots and members of Abbots' Councils of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries shall be exclusively Greek nationals.
6. If no monastic community exists in the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Saint George Vasson or the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Archangel Michael of Roukouniotes, and they are characterized by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as deserted or abandoned, then the provisions concerning deserted or abandoned Holy Monasteries of the presidential decree of paragraph 8 of article 330 shall apply.

Article 333

Establishment of Ecclesiastical Institutions

The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos may, by decision of the respective Metropolitans and Metropolitan Councils, and of the Patriarchal Exarch and the Exarchal Council respectively, approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, establish Ecclesiastical Institutions for the promotion of non-profit charitable, educational, social, and cultural purposes, which shall constitute Legal Entities under Private Law and acquire legal personality upon publication of the decision in the Government Gazette. The Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall also approve the regulation of the Ecclesiastical Institution, which shall include the general rules governing its operation and management including the name, seat, purpose, and the ecclesiastical Legal Entity under Public Law which the institution supports, its administration, resources, rules for the management of its property, and the terms for its dissolution. In the event of dissolution of the Ecclesiastical Institution, its property shall automatically pass to the ecclesiastical Legal Entity under Public Law whose purposes it serves. An Ecclesiastical Institution established for a specific purpose and managing property that has been allocated, whether during lifetime or upon death, to Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, their Holy Monasteries and Holy Churches, specifically for that purpose, shall not alter its purpose except under the conditions of article 109 of the Constitution and the applicable legislation governing charitable foundations, which shall apply to ecclesiastical foundations in this case. The present provisions shall apply to ecclesiastical museums and Holy Pilgrimage Sites of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.

Article 334

Property management and use and financial control

1. The manner of administration, control, safeguarding and recording, accounting management, assignment, preparation and execution of projects, studies, supplies and services, disposal and

leasing, and, in general, any matter concerning the management and use of the property of each legal entity of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the Holy Monasteries and Holy Churches, shall be determined, following a decision of the competent Metropolitan and the Metropolitan Council or of the Patriarchal Exarch and the Exarchal Council respectively, by means of regulations approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which shall be published in the Government Gazette and in the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese". Regulations concerning the administration, management, control, safeguarding, recording, and use of all ecclesiastical property shall be drawn up by the competent Metropolitans and Metropolitan Councils or by the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the Exarchal Council respectively and, following their approval by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be published in the Government Gazette and in the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese"

2. The Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the Holy Monasteries and Holy Churches, may establish or participate in companies of any legal form, whether single-member or not, with the sole purpose of supporting their religious, educational, cultural, and charitable work. In these companies, no natural or legal person seeking a profit-making purpose shall be permitted in any way. The establishment of or participation in these companies shall be decided by the competent Metropolitans and the Metropolitan Councils or by the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the Exarchal Council respectively, and shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
3. Acts of administration of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, their Holy Monasteries, Holy Churches, Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries, the Hermitages, as well as of any legal entity thereof, shall be subject to financial audit, which shall be carried out by Financial Inspectors of the Independent Public Revenue Authority, appointed by joint decision of the Ministers of Finance and of Education and Religious Affairs.
4. In order to fulfil the purposes of the Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and the Legal Entities under Private Law subordinate to them, the free transfer of real rights or possession over ecclesiastical property, public real estate, or property belonging to Legal Entities under Public Law or Local Government Organizations shall be permitted. Such transfers, as well as gratuitous transfers of real estate belonging to the State, Legal Entities under Public Law, Local Government Organizations or private individuals, upon which a Holy Church, Bishopric, or Holy Monastery operates or is intended to be built, to the relevant ecclesiastical legal entity or between ecclesiastical legal entities under this law for the purpose of serving their operation, shall be exempt from registration fees. These transfers shall be effected following a decision of the aforementioned legal entities, which shall be approved by the competent Metropolitans and the Metropolitan Councils or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the Exarchal Council respectively, and by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
5. In the event of the establishment of new Holy Metropolises or Parishes, ecclesiastical immovable property falling within the territorial jurisdiction of such newly established Holy Metropolises or Parishes shall pass ownership to them upon their establishment, as quasi-universal successors, without any further act, contract, or consideration. The Metropolitan of the newly established Holy Metropolis, or the legally designated head of the newly established Parish, shall be obliged to carry out an inventory of the property that passes to it and the inventory report describing the property, as well as any other real rights thereon, shall be approved by the competent Metropolitan and the Metropolitan Council, or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the Exarchal Council, respectively, and by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; it shall also be executed in notarial form and, together with the

summary provided for in article 9 of Royal Decree 533/1963 (A' 147), shall be registered in the appropriate registry books of the competent land registry or Cadastral Office, and the necessary cadastral entries shall be made accordingly. The aforementioned inventory reports shall not constitute acts of transfer of real rights and shall be drawn up and registered without taxes, contributions, fees, duties or charges. The above provisions shall also apply in cases of dissolution, merger, or re-establishment of Holy Monasteries or the establishment of dependencies from dissolved or deserted Holy Monasteries or the attachment of Holy Churches to Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, or the conversion of a Holy Church into a Holy Monastery, in which case, an inventory report of the property shall be drawn up by the local Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos which shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and shall be transcribed as above.

6. With regard to the implementation of this article, the provisions of the Code of Inheritance, Donation, Parental Grant and Winnings from Games of Chance (Law 2961/2001, A' 266) and the Value Added Tax Code (Law 2859/2000, A' 248) shall remain unaffected.
7. The establishment of a right of superficies over the property of Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, their Holy Churches and Holy Monasteries, shall be permitted, in accordance with application of articles 18 to 26 of Law 3986/2011 (A' 152).
8. Articles 4 and 23 of Emergency Law 1539/1938 (A' 488) shall apply to the estates and, in general, to immovable property respectively belonging to the Legal Entities under Public Law of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, their Holy Churches, their Holy Monasteries, and their Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monasteries, as well as to the ecclesiastical institutions, Holy Pilgrimage Sites, and ecclesiastical museums falling under their jurisdiction.

Article 335

Permanent Positions of Clergy and ecclesiastical employees

1. Clergy of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, as referred to in article 3 of the Constitution, are those who have received canonical ordination to one of the three orders of the priesthood.
2. Upon the entry into force of the present, the following are abolished: a) the permanent positions of deacons under article 1 of Legislative Decree 1399/1973 (A' 112), as amended by article 3 of Law 673/1977 (A' 238), and as finally formed following their conversion into permanent positions of preachers and ecclesiastical employees, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 25 of Law 817/1978 (A' 170), Presidential Decree 225/1985 (A' 85), article 30 of Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), and point 7 of paragraph 2 of article 42 of Law 3848/2010 (A' 71), b) the permanent positions of preachers under paragraph 3 of article 25 of Law 817/1978, which resulted from the conversion of permanent positions of deacons under Legislative Decree 1399/1973, as amended by article 3 of Law 673/1977 and as finally formed following their conversion into permanent positions of Deacons pursuant to article 30 of Law 3432/2006, c) the permanent positions of ecclesiastical employees under Presidential Decree 225/1985 (A' 85), issued pursuant to the authorization of paragraph 6 of article 20 of Law 1476/1984 (A' 136), which originated from the conversion of permanent positions of Deacons under Legislative Decree 1399/1973, as amended by article 3 of Law 673/1977 and as finally formed following their conversion pursuant to article 30 of Law 3432/2006 and point 7 of paragraph 2 of article 42 of Law 3848/2010, as set out in Table 1 as follows:

TABLE 1: ABOLITION OF PERMANET POSITIONS

A/A	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF DEACONS	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF PREACHERS	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF ECCLESIASTICAL EMPLOYEES
1. Holy Metropolis of Rhodes	3	1	3
2. Holy Metropolis of Kos and Nisyros	2	1	2
3. Holy Metropolis of Leros, Kalymnos and Astypalea	0	1	3
4. Holy Metropolis of Karpathos and Kasos	1	1	2
5. Holy Metropolis of Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	0	0	2
6. Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	2	1	0
TOTAL ABOLISHED PERMANENT POSITIONS	8	5	12

3. In the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and in the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the following shall be established: a) permanent positions for Metropolitans, equal in number to the existing Metropolises, and for the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos for the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, b) permanent positions for preachers, deacons, and ecclesiastical employees, equal in number to those abolished under Table 1 of paragraph 2, c) permanent established positions for parish priests, equal in number of those currently remunerated by the State, whose appointment decisions have been published in the Government Gazette upon the entry into force of this act, increased by the positions of clergy allocated to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs by decision of the Minister of the Interior under reference no. ΔΠΑΑΔ/Φ.Κ./109/5358/20.4.2022 (B' 2138) and decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs concerning the permanent clergy positions to the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese (ADA: Ψ8ΠΩ46ΜΤΛΗ-5ΟΛ). The permanent positions of Metropolitans, the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, parish priests, preachers, deacons, and ecclesiastical employees referred to in the first subparagraph shall be filled in accordance with the procedures and conditions provided for in the applicable legislation, shall be paid by the State, and shall be allocated to the Holy Metropolises and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, in accordance with Table 2, as follows:

TABLE 2: ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT POSITIONS EQUAL IN NUMBER TO THOSE ABOLISHED UNDER TABLE 1 OF PARAGRAPH 2 AND TO THE NUMBER OF PARISH PRIESTS PAID BY THE STATE

A/A	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF METROPOLITANS	PERMANENT POSITION OF THE PATRIARCHAL EXARCH	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF PARISH PRIEST	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF DEACONS	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF PREACHERS	PERMANENT POSITIONS OF ECCLESIASTICAL EMPLOYEES
HM of Rhodes	1	0	113	3	1	3
HM of Kos and Nisyros	1	0	37	2	1	2
HM of Leros, Kalymnos	1	0	55	0	1	3

and Astypalea						
HM of Karpathos and Kasos	1	0	17	1	1	2
HM of Symi, Tilos, Chalki and Kastellorizo	1	0	19	0	0	2
Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos	0	1	17	2	1	0
TOTAL	5	1	25 8	8	5	12

4. To fill permanent positions of parish priest and deacons, the minimum formal qualification required shall be that specified in article 140 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136). To fill a permanent position of a preacher, a degree from the Theological School of Chalki or an Orthodox Theological School, or a degree from the Program of Priestly Studies of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies shall be required. Those who have irrevocably convicted of the criminal offences referred to in paragraph 16 of article 337, for which a criminal record certificate for judicial use is required, in addition to the disqualifications provided for by the Holy Canons and the Presidential Decree of paragraph 11 of article 337 shall not be appointed to a permanent position of Metropolitan, Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, parish priest, deacon and preacher.
5. By presidential decree issued upon proposal of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs, Finance, and the Interior, and following the opinion of the competent Metropolitans or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, the educational category and specialization of the positions of ecclesiastical employees listed in Table 2 of paragraph 3 shall be determined.
6. By decision of the competent Metropolitan or of the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, the permanent positions of parish priests and deacons of Table 2 of paragraph 3 may be allocated should they become vacant, among parishes within the respective Holy Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, respectively. By decision of the competent Metropolitan or of the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, the parish priests and deacons may also serve the liturgical, pastoral, and welfare needs of other Holy Churches.
7. The filling of permanent positions of parish priests, deacons, preachers and ecclesiastical employees shall be subject to the procedure provided for in the provisions governing the annual human resources planning of the public administration. In particular, the appointment to a position of ecclesiastical employee shall be governed by Law 4765/2021 (A' 6).
8. The conversion and transfer of permanent positions of parish priests, deacons, preachers, and ecclesiastical employees within the ecclesiastical system of the Dodecanese shall be carried out by law following the consent of the competent Metropolitans or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
9. Any change in the number of parishes or Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, or in their boundaries, in accordance with article 336 and article 332, shall not affect the total number of permanent positions of Table 2 of paragraph 3, except in the case of the automatic establishment of a Metropolitan's position upon the foundation of a new Holy Metropolis.
10. A cleric of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos who is elected as an Assistant Bishop without there being a corresponding vacant permanent position shall receive only the salary of the position from which he originates.

11. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos may hire clerics under private-law employment contracts to meet liturgical, pastoral, and welfare needs, as well as ecclesiastical employees under private-law employment contracts, either of fixed-term or indefinite, or under contracts for specific work. The hiring of clerics and the provision of services or work by ecclesiastical employees referred to in the first subparagraph shall not give rise to any legal relationship of dependent employment, contract for services, or any other form of dependency, nor shall it create any obligation or liability on the part of the State and those responsible for the payment of their salaries are exclusively the Holy Metropolises and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, from their own resources. Clerics under this provision shall not be permitted to participate in the Metropolitan and Ecclesiastical Councils of article 457.
12. The employment and salary status of clerics and ecclesiastical employees already in service shall not be affected and shall be governed by paragraph 7 of article 457.
13. Wherever, in the applicable legislation, the term “permanent position” of Metropolitans, the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, preachers, parish priests, deacons, and ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos appears, it shall be understood exclusively and solely as referring to the permanent positions of Table 2 of paragraph 3.

Article 336

Parish priests and Deacons

1. The parish priest is responsible for the liturgical and spiritual life of the parishioners, as well as for all matters concerning the spiritual and material progress of the parish.
2. Vacant permanent parish priest positions shall be filled by married presbyters. Exceptionally and temporarily, such positions may be filled by monks registered in a Holy Monastery of the respective Metropolis, provided that no married presbyter is available for the specific parish position. Monks shall not automatically become permanent regardless of their length of service.
3. Married parish priests who complete five (5) years of service in a permanent parish position shall automatically become permanent.
4. A permanent parish priest may be seconded to another vacant permanent position for a period not exceeding three (3) months, whether continuous or intermittent within the same year, unless there is a request or written consent by the priest concerned.
5. Permanent parish priests may retire from service, upon application, after reaching the age of seventy (70). Those who have retired, upon their application and a decision of the competent Metropolitan, may fulfil, without any burden on the state budget, the liturgical, pastoral, and welfare needs of the parish.
6. Permanent parish priests shall retire mandatorily from service due to inability to perform their parish duties because of illness, certified in accordance with the relevant provisions applicable to civil servants. The procedure shall be initiated either upon their request or that of the competent Metropolitan.
7. The permanent parish priest shall be entitled to an annual paid leave of one (1) month, the granting of which shall be mandatory. Such leave shall be granted within the same calendar year.
8. A permanent parish priest shall be transferred to another vacant permanent position within the respective Holy Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos: a) upon his application, b) by decision of the Metropolitan, and c) due to a final sentence imposed by an ecclesiastical court under article 342. The transfer of a permanent parish priest to another Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese, or to the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, or the Church of Greece, or the Church

of Crete, shall be permitted provided that a vacant permanent position of parish priest exists therein.

9. Permanent or indefinite-term employees serving in General Government entities who have been ordained prior to the publication of the present or who are ordained as Deacons or Presbyters shall be entitled to secondment to the competent Holy Metropolis or to the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos. The secondment shall be carried out upon application of the employee and with the consent of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, respectively, by joint decision of the competent bodies of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the relevant Ministry in each case for a duration of one (1) year and the possibility of extension exclusively for up to two (2) additional years. The salary of seconded employees shall be borne by the entity of origin. Upon the expiration of the secondment or its extension, these employees shall be entitled, upon application, to transfer to the competent Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and receive the salary of their new position. Such transfer shall be effected upon the consent of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, by joint decision of the competent bodies of the Ministries of Education and Religious Affairs, the Interior, Finance, and the relevant Ministry, a summary of which shall be published in the Government Gazette, either to a vacant permanent position or, if no such position exists, to a personal position created by the transfer decision at the host entity. The personal position shall be abolished upon their departure for any reason. The application for transfer shall be submitted within an exclusive period of six (6) months from the end of the secondment or its extension. For the secondment or transfer referred to in the preceding paragraphs, no opinion of the relevant personnel council of the employing entity shall be required.
10. Parish priests, preachers, and deacons of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos may be seconded to meet pastoral needs at the Ecumenical Patriarchate or at one of the other Ancient Patriarchates, or at the Holy Monastery of Sinai. Those seconded shall not be entitled to any supplementary salary, additional remuneration or compensation from the State for travel, return, or the duration of their secondment. The cost of their salaries shall continue to be borne by the sending entity. The secondment shall be effected upon application by the interested party and by decision of the competent Metropolitan, following the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The secondment may be terminated at any time by decision of the competent Metropolitan, following the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, without the submission of a relevant request by the seconded person being a prerequisite or necessary condition. Parish priests, preachers, or deacons of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos who have been elected at the time of entry into force of the present or are elected as Assistant Bishops, Bishops, Metropolitans, or Archbishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchate or one of the other Ancient Patriarchates, may be seconded in accordance with the provisions herein and shall continue to receive only the salary corresponding to the position from which they originate.
11. A Presidential Decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the recommendation of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, respectively, and upon approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall establish and specify, on the basis of the canonical tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, for each Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the qualifications, the procedure for the election and installation of parish priests and deacons, the procedure for filling parish positions, the transfer

and secondment procedures under this article, as well as the training, evaluation, duties, and rights of parish priests and deacons.

12. A cleric wishing to study at Faculties of Theology in the country or at Higher Ecclesiastical Academies must request permission from the competent Metropolitan, which shall be mandatorily granted, and may not exceed four (4) years. During his studies, and for an additional period equal to half of the granted leave, he may not be transferred to another Metropolis. During his studies, he shall serve, to the extent possible, the needs of his parish.
13. By Regulation of the competent Holy Metropolis, approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and published in the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese "Dodecanese," matters concerning the service status of chanters and sacristans shall be determined.
14. Each Metropolis and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall maintain a permanent register of its active parish priests, deacons, and preachers, which shall be updated to reflect retirements or departures, ordinations of clerics, and any changes in their personal status. The Regulation of the competent Holy Metropolis and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, respectively, approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and published in the Government Gazette, shall determine the data and information to be recorded in the register, as well as the competences, conditions, and manner of its maintenance, structure, operation, updating, interconnection with other records, and the publication of its data. The Holy Metropolises and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall be obliged to update, with respect to their religious ministers, the register of religious ministers referred to in article 14 of Law 4301/2014 (A' 223), regardless of the operation of the Register of the relevant Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.
15. The remuneration of parish priests and deacons shall be governed by the provisions currently in force.
16. Clergy of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos who are on the government roll and against whom criminal prosecution has been initiated for a felony or for any of the following offences shall receive fifty per cent (50%) of their remuneration, by order of the payroll authority: a) theft, embezzlement, common or in the course of duty, fraud, extortion, forgery, bribery, breach of trust in the course of duty, breach of duty, defamation, any offence against sexual freedom or any offence of economic exploitation of sexual life, bodily harm to a fetus or newborn, the offences under Law 3500/2006 (A' 232) on combating domestic violence, abduction of minors, unlawful detention, unlawful violence, vigilantism, threat, and disturbance of religious gatherings, b) violence against public officials and judicial officers, undue influence on judicial officers, disruption of official duties, disruption of court proceedings, disobedience, mutiny, impersonation, violation of seals affixed by an authority, and violation of official custody c) incitement to disobedience, incitement to commit crimes, acts of violence or discord, solicitation and offer to commit an offence, criminal organization, terrorist acts- terrorist organization, punishable support, disturbance of public peace, threat to commit offences, dissemination of false news, and insult of symbols or places of special national or religious significance d) the offences under Law 927/1979 (A' 139), e) proselytism under article 4 of Emergency Law 1363/1938 (A' 305), f) the offences under Law 4139/2013 (A' 74).

Upon the initiation of criminal prosecution, the procedure for referring the clergy to the competent ecclesiastical courts shall commence without delay, and until the issuance of a final decision by the ecclesiastical courts, their registration in the register of religious ministers under article 14 of Law 4301/2014, in conjunction with article 47 of Law 4559/2018 (A' 142), shall be suspended.

17. Clergy of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos who are acquitted by a final court decision shall receive the remaining fifty per cent (50%) of their remuneration, with interest, in accordance with article 45 of Law 4607/2019 (A' 65) concerning debts of the State, upon application to the competent payroll authority. Interest shall be due from the issuance of the act reducing remuneration pursuant to paragraph 16 until full and complete payment.
18. Clergy of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos who are convicted by a final court decision for the offences referred to in paragraph 16 shall have their remuneration discontinued, and a declaratory act shall be issued establishing the vacancy of the permanent position they hold.
19. The Public Prosecutor initiating criminal prosecution shall immediately inform the competent Holy Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs that criminal prosecution has been initiated for a felony or the offences listed in paragraph 16. The secretariat of the criminal court issuing the final decision under paragraph 18 shall immediately inform the competent Holy Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and the Directorate of Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 337

Metropolitan and Ecclesiastical Councils

1. In each Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese, a Metropolitan Council shall be established and operate, presided over by the respective Metropolitan.
2. Within the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, an Exarchal Council of the Exarchate shall be established and operate, presided over by the Patriarchal Exarch.
3. In each parish church, an Ecclesiastical Council shall be established and operate, presided over by the serving parish priest.
4. A presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and subject to the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published in the Government Gazette, shall establish—on the basis of the canonical tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ—for each Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos respectively, the general rules regarding: a) the constitution of the Metropolitan Council or the Exarchal Council, the manner of convening and operating, its competences, the legal remedies available, the powers of its President, and any other detail concerning the organization, administration, management, and functioning of the Metropolitan Council or the Exarchal Council, b) the composition of the Ecclesiastical Council and the duties of its members, its formation and meetings, its competences, matters of financial management, its resources and the manner of their allocation, the books kept, the procedures for leasing and sale of immovable property, the procedures for conducting fund-raising activities, and any other detail concerning the organization, administration, management, and operation of the Ecclesiastical Council.

Article 338

Issuance of Regulations

1. The Metropolitans of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos may, by their decisions, approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published in the Government Gazette and in the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese" and provided that any resulting expense does not burden the state budget, issue regulations for more specific and detailed internal matters concerning their respective Metropolises or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos and their affiliated entities, such as, in particular, matters concerning: a) the organization and operation of the Holy Metropolises and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the Holy Churches, the Parishes together with their parish churches, as well as other ecclesiastical institutions and legal entities of their Holy Metropolises, regarding their administration, management, supervision, and operation, as well as the general employment status of their personnel, and b) the employment status of ecclesiastical employees of their Holy Metropolises or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, provided that their salaries are not covered by the State Budget.
2. The Regulations shall be communicated by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 339

Official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese "Dodecanese"

1. By decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Metropolis of the Dodecanese designated to publish the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, entitled "Dodecanese," shall be determined.
2. By decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a five-member editorial committee shall be established for the publication of the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese," presided by the Metropolitan whose Holy Metropolis has undertaken its publication, who shall be an ex officio member of the editorial committee.
3. By decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following the opinion of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a monthly contribution shall be determined for the official Bulletin "Dodecanese" from the salaries of Deacons, Parish Priests, Preachers, and Archbishops of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the amount thereof, the method of its collection and remittance, as well as all necessary details for the implementation of this provision. Until the issuance of the decision of the first subparagraph, the decision No. 162896/A1/2010 (B' 2173) of the Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs shall remain in force.
4. In the official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese," regulations, regulatory provisions, acts, decisions, and circulars of the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall be published, as well as theological and scientific articles and ecclesiastical current events or news. Failure to publish acts and decisions of a regulatory or individual nature shall render the act null and void, unless it has been published in the Government Gazette.
5. The official Bulletin shall be distributed free of charge to Parish Priests, Holy Monasteries, Parishes, ecclesiastical institutions, and ecclesiastical museums of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos. Its content shall also be published on the websites of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos.

6. By decision of the Chair of the editorial committee, following approval by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the official Bulletin referred to in paragraph 1 may publish, upon request of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, ecclesiastical publications of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, as well as reprints thereof, which shall be available free of charge.
7. The official Bulletin of the Provinces of the Ecumenical Throne of the Dodecanese, "Dodecanese," shall maintain a website with the ".gr" domain on which all its content must be published.
8. By decision of the Chair of the editorial committee, following approval by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a Regulation shall be issued and published in the Government Gazette, regulating matters of publication, editing, and financial management of the official Bulletin, as well as any other related issue.

Article 340

Websites of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos

The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall maintain a website with the ".gr" domain where regulations, regulatory provisions, acts, decisions, and circulars of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall be published, as well as theological and scientific articles, ecclesiastical news or events.

Article 341

Building Permits for Holy Churches and Ecclesiastical Properties

1. With regard to building permits for Holy Churches and ecclesiastical properties of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the provisions of article 12 of Law 4258/2014 (A' 94), article 32 of Law 4495/2017 (A' 167), and the provisions of Part II of Law 4858/2021 (A' 220) shall apply.
2. Within the boundaries of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, the construction and operation of Holy Churches, Holy Monasteries and dependencies, as well as Orthodox retreat houses of other ecclesiastical jurisdiction in Greece or the Patriarchates and Churches mentioned in the Diptychs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be permitted following the granting of a relevant permit by the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, the consent of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos and the approval of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and published in the Government Gazette.
3. In the event of the construction or operation, within the boundaries of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, of Holy Churches, Holy Monasteries and dependencies, as well as Orthodox retreat houses of other ecclesiastical jurisdiction in Greece or the Patriarchates and Churches listed in the Diptychs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, without the permit of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, such establishment shall, by decision of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, be immediately sealed by the Police and shall be subject to compulsory expropriation by joint decision of the Ministers of Education and Religious Affairs and of Finance in favor of the competent Holy Metropolis or the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, which shall bear the obligation to pay the relevant compensation. The competent Holy Metropolis or the

Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall be responsible for initiating and overseeing the expropriation process, expediting the determination of compensation and the identification of the beneficiary, and completing the expropriation, by way of derogation from paragraph 2 of article 14 of Law 2882/2001 (A' 17). In all other respects regarding the expropriation, Law 2882/2001 shall apply.

4. The construction and operation of a Holy Church of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ for private worship shall be permitted only with the permission of the competent Metropolitan, or, in the case of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, upon authorization by the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, which shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch. Otherwise, paragraph 3 shall apply.
5. Holy Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ operating for private worship upon authorization under paragraph 4 shall not be converted to public worship. In the event of such conversion, paragraph 3 shall apply.
6. Holy Churches of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ operating for private worship and holding a valid building permit or having been legally regularized under Law 4495/2017 or earlier laws on the regularization of unauthorized structures shall not be demolished, nor sold, leased, transferred, or granted for use to any religious community without prior authorization by the competent Metropolitan or, in the case of the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, without prior authorization by the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, which shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch. Otherwise, paragraph 3 shall apply.

Article 342

Ecclesiastical Courts

1. Offences of clerics and monks of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, relating to their duties and obligations and are subject to penalties under the canon law of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ, shall be adjudicated by the Ecclesiastical Courts.
2. By presidential decree issued upon the proposal of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, following a recommendation by the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, which is approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and published in the Government Gazette, all specific matters concerning the establishment, organization, composition, constitution, jurisdiction, convocation, and operation of the ecclesiastical courts, the preliminary procedure and hearing process, the procedure and means of evidence, canonical offences and the penalties imposed, the adoption, issuance, and service of decisions, the legal remedies, as well as the terms and conditions for the suspension and enforcement of decisions shall be regulated, on the basis of the canonical tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ.

Article 343

Communication

1. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall communicate directly and without charge with the State authorities.
2. The Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos shall communicate, on the one hand, with Churches and religious communities outside the State through the Ecumenical Patriarchate and, on the other hand, with services and authorities of other States through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant correspondence shall be

communicated to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

Article 344

Greek Orthodox Community of Rhodes

1. The legal entity “Greek Orthodox Community of Rhodes”, maintained by decision no. 39143/13.10.1947 of the Military Governor of the Dodecanese, is hereby abolished upon publication of this act.
2. The movable and immovable property, as well as all assets and valuables of the legal entity referred to in paragraph 1, shall automatically devolve in full ownership, possession, and control to the Holy Metropolis of Rhodes, without any further act, contract or consideration, and without any formalities, approvals, procedures, decisions, or opinions. The Holy Metropolis of Rhodes shall continue the administration and management of the property of the “Greek Orthodox Community of Rhodes” as its universal successor, as well as any pending legal proceedings in its name without any further judicial or extrajudicial action.
3. The Metropolitan of Rhodes shall be obliged, within six (6) months from the effective date of this provision, to carry out a detailed inventory of movable and immovable property, as well as all assets and financial rights transferred thereto and the relevant inventory report shall be approved by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be executed in notarial form, and together with the required summary, shall be registered, with respect to the real estate, in the relevant records of the competent land registry or cadastral office, and the necessary cadastral registrations shall be made accordingly.
4. Decision No. 39143/13.10.1947 of the Military Governor of the Dodecanese “on the maintenance of the Greek Orthodox Community of Rhodes as a legal entity,” is repealed upon publication of this act.

Article 345

Application of Provisions by Analogy

For matters not expressly provided for in this act, the provisions of Law 4149/1961 (A' 41) shall apply by analogy, and where no provision is made in Law 4149/1961, the provisions of Law 590/1977 (A' 146) shall apply by analogy.

Article 346

Evidence of the Establishment of Old Parishes and Holy Monasteries

The establishment of Holy Monasteries and Parishes in the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese and the Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos, which existed prior to the entry into force of this act, shall be evidenced by a declaratory act of the competent Metropolitan or the Patriarchal Exarch of Patmos, respectively, which shall be published in the Government Gazette and shall determine: a) the name of the Monastery or Parish Church of the parish, respectively, b) their seat, c) the Holy Metropolis under whose jurisdiction they fall, d) the time of their foundation, with explicit reference to the body of evidence such as documents of public or ecclesiastical authorities, monastic statutes, and others, from which the time of establishment may be inferred, and (e) their boundaries in the case of Parishes. The relevant declaratory acts shall be issued within six (6) months from the date of entry into force of this act.