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**Law 5224/2025 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 142)**

**“Establishment of a Legal Entity under Public Law under the name ‘Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece’, regulations on matters under the competence of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, enhancing security in higher education institutions, provisions on sports, granting of a lifetime pension to literary figures and artists for the year 2025, and other provisions”**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

We promulgate the following law passed by the Parliament:

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## **PART A**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEGAL ENTITY UNDER PUBLIC LAW UNDER THE NAME “GREEK ORTHODOX SACRED ROYAL AUTONOMOUS MONASTERY OF THE HOLY AND GOD- TRODDEN MOUNT SINAI IN GREECE”**

#### **CHAPTER A**

#### **PURPOSE AND OBJECT**

##### **Article 1**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of Part A shall be to:

- (a) Represent in Greece the autonomous religious legal entity under the name “Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of Saint Catherine of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai” (hereinafter referred to as “the Monastery”), which was founded circa year 549 on Mount Sinai, where it has since continuously and unceasingly operated with the same purpose. It is referred to in paragraph 8 of Article 18 of the Constitution as the “Sacred Monastery of Sinai” and is governed by the Holy Sinai Brotherhood in accordance with the Divine and Sacred Canons and its Fundamental Charter (Holy Sinai Constitution);
- (b) Support the work of the Monastery; and
- (c) Entrust the administration of the Monastery’s assets to the Legal Entity under Public Law named “Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece”, for the implementation of the Monastery’s objectives.

##### **Article 2**

##### **Subject Matter**

Subject Matter of Part A is the establishment and organization of the governance and operation of the Legal Entity under Public Law named “Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece”, for the achievement of the purpose set out in Article 1.

#### **CHAPTER B**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 3**

##### **Establishment, Name, Seat and Seal of the Legal Entity**

1. A Legal Entity under Public Law is hereby established under the name “Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece” (hereinafter: the “L.E.P.L.”), with its seat in Athens. It shall operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. For its international relations, the L.E.P.L. shall be referred to as “Greek Orthodox Sacred Autonomous Royal Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece.”
2. The seal of the L.E.P.L. is circular and consists of three (3) concentric circles.

- The outer circle bears the phrase:  
“HELLENIC REPUBLIC – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AND SPORTS.”
- The middle circle bears the phrase:  
“GREEK ORTHODOX SACRED ROYAL AUTONOMOUS MONASTERY OF THE HOLY AND GOD-TRODDEN MOUNT SINAI IN GREECE – L.E.P.L.”
- The inner circle is fully enclosed by two (2) laurel branches that intersect at the tips on the lower side. In the center, it features a depiction of the Burning Bush and the monogram “AK” for Saint Catherine.

## **Article 4**

### **Objectives and Means of implementation**

1. The objectives of the L.E.P.L. are:
  - (a) To represent the Monastery in Greece, upon authorization from the Holy Sinai Brotherhood;
  - (b) To study the Greek Orthodox tradition;
  - (c) To promote ecclesiastical and Byzantine literature, education, and art;
  - (d) To support the mission of the Monastery;
  - (e) To assist the Monastery in the repatriation, acquisition, reception, restitution of a collection, housing, protection, safeguarding, conservation, cataloguing, documentation, research, study, publication, exhibition, exposure, and promotion at a national and international levels of the Monastery’s sacred relics, documentary evidence, and library holdings;
  - (f) To support members of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood of the Monastery in matters of education and health;
  - (g) To support the Monastery in the development of pilgrimage missions and, more broadly, religious tourism to Mount Sinai; and
  - (h) To manage the Monastery’s movable and immovable assets entrusted to the L.E.P.L..
2. To fulfill its objectives, the L.E.P.L. may, in particular:
  - (a) Study and disseminate Patristic literature; translate texts of the Greek Fathers into other languages such as Arabic, and translate into Greek Patristic texts preserved only in ancient Eastern languages; publish books and periodicals of Patristic, monastic, historical, and scholarly nature for religious education and spiritual cultivation; promote scientific research and awareness on ecclesiastical life, art, and history; organize screenings, lectures, and public outreach activities; and support the Monastery’s dependencies (Metochia);
  - (b) Systematically organize pilgrimage missions and pilgrimages to the Holy Lands, and especially to Mount Sinai;
  - (c) Provide assistance to the Monastery in order to fulfill its spiritual oversight responsibilities at the Mountain of the Decalogue;
  - (d) Support the Monastery in maintaining and repairing the stairway and path to the Holy Summit, as well as the scattered Byzantine chapels and hermitages across the Sinai Peninsula;
  - (e) Conduct scientific research, conservation, and utilization of the Monastery’s relics and its architectural and archaeological monuments, including its Dependencies (Metochia) and minor monastic foundations (Monydria), within and outside the Sinai Peninsula;

- (f) Contribute to the preservation and restoration of Structures dating from the Justinian and later buildings of the Monastery;
- (g) Preserve and protect the structures and works at risk of collapse or destruction, and implement restoration projects;
- (h) Study and conserve ancient icons, manuscripts, archives, and relics of the Monastery; enrich the Monastery's library and equip it with technical tools for the digitization of manuscripts, codices, and documents;
- (i) Create a photographic and digitized archive of the Monastery's icons and relics; publish scientific studies and research related to the Monastery and its pieces of art.
- (j) Create modern laboratories at the Monastery for the conservation and scientific study of its ancient icons, manuscripts, archives, and relics, using advanced technological equipment and methods;
- (k) Establish artistic workshops, publish photographs, bulletins, slides, and copies, in any form and on any material, of the Monastery's ancient icons, manuscripts, archives, and relics, as well as produce all types of printed, conventional and digital editions and educational materials for distribution in Greece and abroad;
- (l) Organize or participate in the organization of all types of research and educational programs, either independently or in collaboration with the competent Services (Departments) of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, Greek and international academic institutions, and scientific or cultural organizations active in the areas of relevance to the L.E.P.L., including the exchange of scientific data, knowledge, and expertise;
- (m) Create a digital database of the Monastery's ancient icons, manuscripts, archives, and relics, and connect it with international academic, scientific, and cultural institutions, as well as exchange of data and research findings;
- (n) Organize and participate in activities and events that serve the scientific, research, and educational mission of the L.E.P.L., enhance its public engagement, and strengthen its connection with society, including lectures, workshops, conferences, seminars, projections, performances, concerts, and other activities of religious, social, and interdisciplinary character;
- (o) Develop and operate a website in Greek, English, and Arabic, accessible to persons with disabilities, to provide information about the Monastery, its collections, and its activities; use modern technological applications and media; and develop digital services, accessible to persons with disabilities, with interactive content that support the research, study, documentation, and promotion of its collections;
- (p) Conclude memoranda of international cooperation, upon approval by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports;
- (q) Participate in European and international programs of a religious nature;
- (r) Encourage voluntary contributions to support and promote the Monastery's activities, as well as establish associations of friends of the Monastery, with or without legal personality, at both national and international levels;
- (s) Host internships within the Monastery for students of Faculties/Departments of theology, archaeology, history, of Faculties/Departments related to the fields of the conservations of antiquities, icons, manuscripts, archives, and relics of the Byzantine and post-Byzantine periods, as

well as of other Faculties or Departments of Higher Education Institutions in Greece or abroad, under contract in accordance with Article 69 of Law 4957/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), provided there is no expense incurred by the L.E.P.L. or the Monastery, without prejudice to paragraphs 6 and 8 of the same article regarding insurance and compensation costs, respectively;

(t) Award scholarships to students for conducting postgraduate dissertations and doctoral theses on topics related to the objectives of the L.E.P.L.; and

(u) Contribute to safeguarding the sanctity of the Mount Sinai area and the most beneficial use of the Monastery's movable and immovable assets.

3. In order to fulfill its objectives, the L.E.P.L. shall cooperate, in particular, with the General State Archives, the Higher Education Institutions of Greece, and the competent services of the Ministry of Culture or other Ministries and entities supervised by the public sector, especially through the conclusion of programmatic agreements or memoranda of cooperation, which may include the possibility of undertaking the implementation costs by the aforementioned institutions.

4. In all cases, the actions taken to fulfill the objectives of the L.E.P.L. shall be implemented upon prior approval of the Monastery.

## **Article 5**

### **Resources – Revenues – Assets**

1. The resources of the L.E.P.L. are:

(a) donations, inheritances, bequests, contributions and subsidies of any kind from third parties, and revenues from all types of activities;

(b) revenues from the management of funds for research, development, and educational programs, as well as corporate social responsibility programs aiming at promoting the Greek Orthodox tradition and disseminating ecclesiastical education and the cultural heritage of Byzantium;

(c) revenues from the implementation of programs funded or co-funded by the European Union or other international organizations, subject to the specific regulatory frameworks of the programs financed by the Public Investment Development Program;

(d) all types of contributions from legal entities in Greece or abroad established to support the Monastery, or from supporters of the Monastery's work in Greece and abroad;

(e) revenues from the sale of printed or electronic publications, photocopies, bibliographic or other materials produced by the Monastery, or materials produced by third parties for the promotion of the Monastery;

(f) revenues from the operation of gift shops for the sale of souvenirs and high-quality replicas from the Monastery's collection of manuscripts, old and rare books, paintings, engravings, as well as stationery, writing materials, and electronic accessories;

(g) revenues from the temporary loan or interlibrary loan of the Monastery's cultural or religious property;

(h) revenues from the administration of the Monastery's assets entrusted to the L.E.P.L.;

(i) extraordinary subsidy from the regular budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports to cover the operational needs of the L.E.P.L.;

- (j) regular subsidy from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports to cover the salaries of the legal advisor and the special scientific associate of the L.E.P.L..
2. The revenues mentioned in items (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of paragraph 1 are allocated to the Monastery in accordance with the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 18.
  3. The Monastery may transfer to the L.E.P.L. the ownership and any other property rights over its movable and immovable assets or grant their use to it, free of charge and without the payment of contributions, fees, rights, duties, or taxes.

## **CHAPTER C**

### **GOVERNANCE**

#### **Article 6**

##### **Governing Bodies**

The governing bodies of the L.E.P.L. are: (a) the Governing Board, (b) the President of the Governing Board, and (c) the Administrator.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Competences of the Governing Board**

1. The Governing Board has the following competences:
  - (a) It defines the strategy and policy for the implementation of the objectives of the L.E.P.L.;
  - (b) It decides on all matters related to the governance, assets administration, organization, and operation of the L.E.P.L., particularly the management of human and material resources, implementation and oversight of expenditures, acceptance or renunciation of inheritances, bequests, or donations, contracting loans, and utilizing its assets;
  - (c) It prepares and submits, in January each year, a detailed inventory report of all movable and immovable assets of the L.E.P.L. to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports;
  - (d) It decides on all matters concerning the administration of the Monastery's movable and immovable assets, which has been entrusted to the L.E.P.L. and reports to the Monastery on such administration;
  - (e) It decides on all matters assigned to the L.E.P.L. by the Monastery concerning its representation;
  - (f) It conducts all recruitment procedures for personnel under fixed-term or indefinite private law employment contracts or project-based contracts and decides on their renewal;
  - (g) It recruits the personnel referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 14, if the corresponding funds are available in its approved budget, and defines their specific qualifications, duties, and remuneration;
  - (h) It drafts and submits for approval the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management of the L.E.P.L. to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports;
  - (i) It prepares and submits for approval to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, in December, the budget of the L.E.P.L. for the following fiscal year, accompanied by an

explanatory report containing an analysis and justification of each budgeted revenue and expenditure item;

(j) It prepares and submits for approval to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, in March, the financial statement of the L.E.P.L. for the previous fiscal year;

(k) It handles the collection of all revenues of the L.E.P.L., opens and manages all types of accounts in financial institutions, manages securities (especially shares and bonds), and undertakes all financial and administrative actions such as purchasing, selling, leasing, and renting real estate owned by the L.E.P.L. to meet its needs and fulfill its objectives;

(l) It approves calls for tenders and results of all types of public procurement procedures (works, studies, services, and supplies) to meet the needs and fulfill the objectives of the L.E.P.L., decides on every stage of these until contract award, and authorizes the President of the Governing Board to sign the relevant contracts.

2. The decisions of the Governing Board referred to in items (d) and (e) of paragraph 1 require the approval of the Monastery, which must be given within six (6) months; otherwise, they are deemed automatically null and void.

## **Article 8**

### **Composition, Appointment and Term of Office of the Governing Board**

1. The Governing Board consists of five (5) members, with their respective alternates, and is appointed by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports which is published in the Government Gazette.
2. Members of the Governing Board are:
  - (a) The Abbot of the Monastery and Archbishop of Sinai, Pharan, and Raithu, who is freely elected by secret majority vote of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood, as provided by the specific articles of the Fundamental Charter (Holy Sinai Constitution), serving as President of the Governing Board;
  - (b) The Dean (Dikaios) of the Monastery, who is freely elected by secret majority vote of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood, as provided by the specific articles of the Fundamental Charter (Holy Sinai Constitution), with an alternate who is a member of the Brotherhood, appointed by the latter;
  - (c) The Monastery's Representative (Apokrisarios) in Greece, who is a member of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood and appointed pursuant to Article 40 of the Fundamental Charter (Holy Sinai Constitution), or the Monastery's Commissioner in Athens pursuant to point (c) of Article 51 of the Fundamental Charter, with an alternate member of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood, appointed by the latter;
  - (d) Two (2) distinguished lay individuals with the knowledge and ability to work for the fulfillment the objectives of the L.E.P.L., appointed by the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports following a justified recommendation by the Holy Sinai Brotherhood.
3. The term of members under points (a), (b), and (c) of paragraph 2 is indefinite and ceases upon the loss of their status as Abbot and Archbishop of Sinai, Pharan and Raithu, Dean, and Representative (Apokrisarios) or Commissioner of the Monastery, respectively. The term of the members under point (d) of paragraph 2 is three (3) years, and is renewable up to a maximum of nine (9) years.

4. In case of absence or impediment of the President, he is replaced by the member mentioned in point (c) of paragraph 2, and in case of absence or impediment of that member, by another Governing Board member, appointed by decision of the Governing Board.
5. If a position on the Governing Board becomes vacant for any reason during its term, a new member is appointed for the remainder of the term of the member they are replacing. If vacancies occur and new appointments are pending, the Governing Board continues to function legally for six (6) months, provided that at least three (3) appointed members, including the President, remain.
6. Membership in the Governing Board is honorary and unpaid. Members of the Governing Board are liable for intentional misconduct and gross negligence in the performance of their duties.

## **Article 9**

### **Operation of the Governing Board**

1. The Governing Board meets upon invitation by the President, which includes the items on the agenda. Regular meetings are held every two (2) months, and extraordinary meetings are held whenever deemed necessary by the President. Meetings of the Governing Board may be held in person, via teleconference, or through a combination of both methods. Invitations to the meetings are sent to the members of the Governing Board by the Secretary, using any appropriate means, five (5) days prior to the meeting.
2. The start and the end of meetings are declared by the President of the Governing Board. Items not included in the agenda are not discussed, unless they concern urgent matters and the majority of the members present agree.
3. The role of rapporteur to the Governing Board is assumed by the President or by a member of the Governing Board designated by the President.
4. The Governing Board is in quorum when at least three (3) of its members, including the President, are present, or, in case of absence or impediment of the President, his alternate.
5. During the meetings of the Governing Board detailed minutes are kept by the Secretary, recording all decisions taken and the opinions of dissenting members. The minutes are signed by the President of the Governing Board or his deputy and the Secretary.
6. The decisions of the Governing Board, the acts of the President (pursuant to Article 10), and the acts of the Administrator (pursuant to Article 11) are published on the “Diavgeia” (Transparency Platform) website.

## **Article 10**

### **Competences of the President of the Governing Board**

The President of the Governing Board exercises the following competences:

- (a) Oversees the activities and general operation of the Governing Board;
- (b) Represents the L.E.P.L. domestically and internationally before any administrative or judicial authority as well as in its relations with third parties, either personally or through an authorized representative designated by decision of the Governing Board;
- (c) Proposes items for the agenda, except for the matters delegated to another Governing Board member or to the Administrator;

- (d) Introduces to the Governing Board, each December, the annual strategic plan for implementing the objectives outlined in Article 4;
- (e) Grants a power of attorney legal and a mandate to attorneys for filing legal remedies or appeals, and for lawfully representing the L.E.P.L. in court and before other authorities, in accordance with Governing Board decisions;
- (f) Approves relevant expenditures within the approved budget, as well as any other administrative act exceeding thirty thousand and one (30,001) euros and up to one hundred thousand (100,000) euros;
- (g) Supervises and coordinates the work of the L.E.P.L. and regularly informs the Governing Board;
- (h) Signs the correspondence and all documents of the L.E.P.L.;
- (i) Exercises any other power assigned by decision of the Governing Board.

## **Article 11**

### **Administrator**

1. The Administrator is appointed by decision of the Governing Board, taken at its first meeting following its formation, from among the members referred to in points (c) and (d) of paragraph 2 of Article 8, for a term of three (3) years, which may be freely renewed.
2. The Administrator is responsible for the smooth operation of the L.E.P.L. and exercises the following roles and responsibilities:
  - (a) Implements Governing Board decisions concerning the recruitment, the dismissal, and the overall employment status of all categories of the L.E.P.L.'s personnel;
  - (b) Evaluates the L.E.P.L.'s personnel in accordance with the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management pursuant to Article 13, and exercises disciplinary authority as their supervisor;
  - (c) Drafts and submits to the Governing Board for approval the annual budget and financial statement of the L.E.P.L.;
  - (d) Signs payment orders for expenses provided for in the expenditure, promissory notes, and payment instructions of any kind, as well as payroll and compensation statements for the L.E.P.L.'s personnel;
  - (e) Submits to the Governing Board matters concerning financial management in accordance with the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management under Article 13, as well as any other relevant financial issues, and executes the relevant decisions of the Governing Board;
  - (f) Establishes committees on matters within the L.E.P.L.'s competence;
  - (g) Approves expenditures within the approved budget and any other administrative act up to thirty thousand (30,000) euros;
  - (h) Ensures the implementation of annual program of contracts for works, studies, services, supplies, approved by the Governing Board;
  - (i) Proposes to the Governing Board promotional and outreach activities for the L.E.P.L., upon proposals from its competent departments, as well as a development plan for pilgrimage missions and other religious tourism activities at the Monastery;

(j) Submits proposals to the President of the Governing Board for the conclusion of memoranda of cooperation with the entities mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 4 and in Article 15.

## **Article 12**

### **Secretary of the Governing Board**

1. The Secretary of the Governing Board is appointed by decision of the Governing Board, from among the personnel referred to in Article 14, for a term of three (3) years, which may be freely renewed.
2. The Secretary of the Governing Board:
  - (a) Ensures the maintenance of the archive of the original official documents of the Governing Board, which are co-signed with the President;
  - (b) Timely informs the President of the Governing Board of any matters concerning the L.E.P.L.;
  - (c) Ensures the timely dispatch to the members of the Governing Board, by any appropriate means, of the invitations to both regular and extraordinary meetings pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 9, and of invitations to third parties invited to be heard by the Governing Board; ensures communications with regular and alternate members of the Governing Board, keeps them informed, and generally oversees all necessary procedures and actions for the smooth operation of the Governing Board and the participation of its members, and;
  - (d) Assumes any duties assigned to him by decision of the Governing Board.

## **Article 13**

### **Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management**

1. The Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management regulate matters related to the governance, organization, management, and operation of the L.E.P.L. and its personnel, including:
  - (a) Specific matters concerning the competence of its governing bodies;
  - (b) The organizational and administrative structure of departments, divisions, and offices, including their specific functions, as well as staffing, and the distribution of job positions by category and specialty;
  - (c) The qualifications and recruitment process for the personnel referred to in Article 14, as well as all aspects of their employment status;
  - (d) The procedure and conditions for granting all types of leave;
  - (e) The disciplinary procedure and personnel evaluation process;
  - (f) The procedure for concluding contracts for supplies, services, studies, and works necessary to meet the needs of the L.E.P.L., as well as for the operation and maintenance of its immovable assets;
  - (g) The procedures for leasing, renting, selling, and purchasing real estate;
  - (h) The procedure for transferring revenues to the Monastery deriving from the administration of its assets entrusted to the L.E.P.L., and
  - (i) The procedures for the financial management and the integration of the L.E.P.L. into an appropriate accounting and financial control system.

## **CHAPTER D**

### **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

#### **Article 14**

#### **Personnel**

1. The following positions are established within the L.E.P.L.:

(a) Twelve (12) permanent posts for ecclesiastical personnel. These positions are to be filled through secondment of ecclesiastical personnel serving in Holy Metropolises of the Hellenic Republic. In case these positions are not filled by ecclesiastical personnel, they may be covered through secondment of administrative personnel from entities of the General Government, as defined in point (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 14 of Law 4270/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 143), notwithstanding Law 4440/2016 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 224) on mobility, by joint decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and the Minister with the relevant competence, as the case may be, upon the employee's request and with the consent of the L.E.P.L.'s Governing Board and the originating entity. The duration of the secondment is one (1) year, with the possibility of extension up to five (5) years. The salaries of seconded personnel are paid by the originating entity. No opinion from the relevant service council of the originating entity is required for the secondment under this article.

(b) One (1) post for a legal advisor under a salaried mandate and one (1) post for a special scientific associate. The special scientific associate shall hold at least a degree in legal or economic studies, shall have experience or specialization in fields relevant to the L.E.P.L., and shall demonstrate excellent command of the Arabic language. The legal advisor and the special scientific associate are recruited by decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports following a substantiated recommendation from the Governing Board, after a call for applications published on the website of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports. Their payroll is fully covered by the L.E.P.L.'s budget, through an equivalent subsidy from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, and is paid to the beneficiaries via a financial payment warrant issued specifically for this purpose. Their remuneration is determined in accordance with Chapter B of Law 4354/2015 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 176) on wage regulations, and all lawful deductions are applied.

2. If the permanent positions under paragraph 1(a) are not filled through secondment, the L.E.P.L. may recruit personnel under private-law employment contracts, either fixed-term or indefinite, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management under Article 13. In this case, the obligation to pay their salaries lies solely with the L.E.P.L. and is covered from its own resources, excluding any form of public subsidy. The services provided by the personnel of this paragraph do not give rise to any legal relationship of dependent employment, contract for services, or any other form of dependency with the State, nor do they create any obligation or liability on the part of the State.

3. The personnel mentioned in paragraph 1 may, with their consent and upon decision of the Governing Board, provide their services at the Monastery's seat or in another city in Egypt. Expenses for travel, return, medical care, and accommodation are covered by the Monastery.

## **CHAPTER E**

### **SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE MONASTERY**

#### **Article 15**

##### **Support of the Monastery in Matters of Education and Health**

1. Regular or novice members of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood of the Monastery may enroll in the Apprenticeship Schools for Clerical Candidates without submission examination, upon presentation of a certificate from the Monastery attesting to their status.
2. Regular members of the Holy Sinai Brotherhood, who have reached the age of thirty (30) and have resided continuously at the Monastery for at least five (5) years, may be admitted to higher education institutions, in addition to the standard number of admitted students, applying by analogy subpoint i) of point a) of paragraph 4 of Article 2 of Law 2525/1997 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 188), upon presentation of a certificate from the Monastery confirming their status.
3. Upon request of the L.E.P.L. to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and an application by the interested party, a doctor from the National Health System (NHS) specialized in General/Family Medicine, who serves in a Primary Health Care structure, or any designated or non-designated personal doctor<sup>1</sup>, may be seconded to the L.E.P.L., by derogation to paragraph 1 of Article 26 of Law 2519/1997 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 165), in order to provide medical services at the Monastery's seat, where a medical office operates. This secondment is conducted by joint decision of the Ministers of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and of Health, with the consent of the L.E.P.L. and the originating institution. The same decision determines the duration of the secondment, which may not exceed the term of office or contract of the doctor, and in any case up to five (5) years. The doctor's monthly remuneration, travel and initial relocation expenses, as well as any compensation for on-call or overtime work, are borne by the originating institution. For NHS doctors, the secondment period is considered as actual service time with their permanent post for the purposes of tenure, advancement, and the completion of five-year continuous service as required by para 7 of Article 23 of Law 2519/1997 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 165). If a designated personal doctor is seconded, the secondment period is counted towards the required service period as a personal doctor under Article 8 of Law 5157/2024 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 187).

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<sup>1</sup> Translator's note: "Ο προσωπικός ιατρός" (translated in English here as "personal doctor") refers to a doctor assigned or selected by the citizen under the Greek National Healthcare System. This role includes responsibilities similar to a general practitioner or primary care physician, but its functions are defined specifically by Greek legislation.

## **Article 16**

### **Establishment of Monastery Dependencies (Metochia)**

For the establishment of Monastery dependencies (Metochia) in Greece, paragraph 7 of Article 39 of Law 590/1977 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 146) concerning Holy Monasteries applies. The said provision applies by analogy to other ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

## **CHAPTER F**

### **FINAL – AUTHORIZING – TRANSITIONAL – REPEALED PROVISIONS**

## **Article 17**

### **Final Provisions**

1. The governance of the Monastery's movable and immovable assets not entrusted to the L.E.P.L. is not subject to the provisions of this law and shall be conducted in accordance with the Fundamental Charter (Holy Sinai Constitution) of the Monastery.
2. Subparagraph 3 of para 1 of Article 68 of Law 4235/2014 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 32) on the conditions for subjection to the rules governing the General Government and the public sector, shall also apply to the L.E.P.L..
3. For any matters not regulated by this law nor by the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management, the provisions of the Code of Administrative Procedure (Law 2690/1999, A' 45) shall apply by analogy.
4. The Monastery ipso jure succeeds to the rights and obligations of the legal entities abolished under Article 20. Ownership and any other real rights over the entirety of the movable and immovable property of the entities under Article 20 are transferred to the Monastery ipso jure and without consideration.
5. Ownership of the public forest area of 290 stremmas (29 hectares), located at "Kavkalos" in the Municipal Unit of Atalanti, Municipality of Lokroi, Regional Unit of Fthiotida, Region of Central Greece, as described in the Act of the Ministerial Council under reference No. 41/3.3.1993 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 30), by which it was granted to the Mount Sinai Foundation, is transferred ipso jure and without compensation to the L.E.P.L. for as long as the original purpose of the grant remains in effect, and in any case not beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December 2034, with the possibility of a five (5)-year extension, if delay in implementation is deemed attributable to government fault. If the purpose of the grant ceases or is no longer of interest to the grantee, ownership reverts ipso jure and without compensation to the Ministry of Environment and Energy without any obligation to reimburse for expenses incurred in construction or site development. In all other respects, especially regarding the safeguarding terms and obligations of the grantee, the provisions of the Act of the Ministerial Council No. 41/3.3.1993 and paragraph 1 of Article 7 of Law 4208/2013 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 252) on retroactive extension, remain in force. Failure of the grantee to comply with any safeguarding terms and conditions of the Act of the Ministerial Council No. 41/3.3.1993 or to implement the measures required constitutes grounds for mandatory revocation of the grant.

6. Pending legal proceedings or judicial cases involving the legal entities abolished under Article 20, —at any stage and before any competent civil, criminal, or administrative court, prosecutorial, or investigative authority, —shall be continued by the L.E.P.L..

## **Article 18**

### **Authorizing Provisions**

1. By decision of the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, issued following a proposal by the L.E.P.L., the form and content of the seal referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 3 may be amended, and any issue related to the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 3 may be regulated.
2. By presidential decree, issued upon the proposal of the Ministers of National Economy and Finance, of Interior, and of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports, the Internal Rules of Operation and Financial Management referred to in Article 13 shall be established, following a recommendation by the Governing Board of the L.E.P.L., to be submitted within two (2) months from its first meeting.
3. By joint decision of the Ministers of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports and of Health, the maximum number of doctors who may be seconded, the secondment procedure, and all other specific matters related to the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 15 shall be determined.

## **Article 19**

### **Transitional Provisions**

1. The first inventory report referred to in point (c) of paragraph 1 of Article 7 shall be submitted to the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs, and Sports within five (5) months from the entry into force of this law.
2. Until the secondment of a personnel member under paragraph 1 of Article 14, the duties of Secretary of the Governing Board shall be performed by a member of the Governing Board, appointed by decision of the Governing Board adopted on its first meeting.

## **Article 20**

### **Abolition of Legal Entities – Repealed Provisions**

From the date this law enters into force, the following are abolished:

1. The charitable foundation under the name “MOUNT SINAI FOUNDATION”.
2. The charitable foundation under the name “MOUNT SINAI, EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE”.
3. a) The Presidential Decree of 15.10.1986 titled “Approval of the establishment of the charitable foundation under the name ‘MOUNT SINAI FOUNDATION’ and ratification of its statute” (GG, Vol. B’, Iss. 752).  
b) The Presidential Decree of 28.4.1993 titled “Approval of the establishment of the charitable foundation under the name ‘MOUNT SINAI, EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE’ and ratification of its statute” (GG, Vol. B’, Iss. 334).