

Greece - Constitution

Chapter III Regime of Mount Athos

Article 105 [Traditional Self-Government]

(1) The Athos Peninsula extending beyond Megali Vigla and constituting the district of **Mount Athos** shall, in accordance with its ancient [privileged status](#), **be a self-governing part of the Greek State** whose sovereignty thereon shall remain unaffected. **Spiritually, Mount Athos shall come under the direct jurisdiction of the Oecumenical Patriarchate.** All persons residing therein shall acquire Greek nationality upon admission as novices or monks without any further formality.

(2) **Mount Athos shall, in accordance with its regime, be governed by its twenty Holy Monasteries**, among which the entire peninsula is divided and its territory shall be exempt from expropriation. The administration shall be exercised by representatives of the Holy Monasteries who constitute the Holy Community. No change whatsoever shall be permitted in the administrative system or the number of monasteries of Mount Athos, nor in their hierarchy and their position in regard to their dependencies. The dwelling therein of heterodox or schismatic persons shall be prohibited.

(3) The determination in detail of the Mount Athos regimes and the manner of operation thereof is effected by the Constitutional Charter of Mount Athos, which, with the co-operation of the State representative, is drawn up and voted by the twenty Holy Monasteries and ratified by the Oecumenical Patriarchate and the Parliament of the Hellenes.

(4) The correct observance of the Mount Athos regimes shall, in the spiritual sphere, be under the supreme supervision of the Oecumenical Patriarchate and, in the administrative field, under the supervision of the State which shall be exclusively responsible for safeguarding public order and security.

(5) The a foregoing powers of the State shall be exercised through a Governor whose rights and duties shall be determined by law. A law shall also determine the judicial power exercised by the monastic authorities and the Holy Community, as well as the customs and taxation privileges of Mount Athos.