

DECISION

No. 459, dated 23.09.1999

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR CULTS

Based on articles 10 and 100 of the Constitution, upon the proposal of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Governmental Coordination,

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

DECIDED:

1. The establishment of the State Committee for Cults as a state body dependant on the Council of Ministers, in order to establish the relationships between the state and religious communities and social organizations of any kind, having an activity objective and following religious goals.

2. The State Committee for Cults reports to the Council of Ministers about its activity. This Committee has the following responsibilities:

- Coordinates relations with religious communities, associations, and religious or humanitarian foundations.

- Negotiates the preparation of agreements between representatives of the religious communities and the Council of Ministers.

- Is impartial in issues of belief, recognizes the equality of the religious communities and respects their independence. Also, it works to guarantee the freedom of belief and religious development, understanding, and tolerance in Albania.

- Helps and supports the religious activities, based on the Constitution and relevant laws, regulating concrete problems.

- Cooperates with religious communities for the preparation of the draft laws and substatutory acts related to religious cults.

- Presents to the Ministry of Education and Science: its opinions regarding teaching plans, subjects curricula, and non-laical texts; requests presented for the opening of the non-public educational institutions, non-public additional educational institutions where religious subjects are conducted; and, in cooperation with this institution dependant on the territorial administrative division, common economic needs and interests, and historical and religious tradition, defines the number of non-public educational institutions and additional non-public institutions where religious subjects are conducted.

- In cooperation with the Institute of Monuments of Culture and religious communities, is interested in safeguarding the values of cults objects.

- Decides and develops connections with the homologue institutions of the other countries of the diaspora.

- Presents to the Ministry of Finance its opinion regarding the entrance of goods having a religious nature belonging to religious communities into the territory of the Republic of Albania, and their exemption from customs duties in compliance with the laws in force.

3. The State Committee for Cults is composed of a chairman and 4 members. Its composition, organizational structure, and the regulation of its functioning is approved by the Prime Minister.

4. The salary of the Chairman of the State Committee for Cults should be of the level A12 of attachment I "Order of the functions according to the classification" of the decision of

the Council of Ministers No. 393, dated 3.9.1992, "For the salaries of the employees of budget institutions", while the other employees are treated as employees of the ministries.

5. The establishment and functioning of the State Committee for Cults is financed by the budgeted funds allocated to the State Secretariat of Religion for the year 1999.

6. The State Committee for Cults is in charge of implementing this decision.

This decision enters into force after the publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER

Pandeli Majko