

**Emergency Law No. 367/1945 (A' 143) "Concerning the Reorganization of Jewish Communities"**

**Article 1**

All Jewish Communities of Greece which, at the time of publication of the present Law, number more than one half of the number of their pre-war members shall be considered fully reconstituted. The operation of such Communities shall continue in accordance with the provisions of Law 2456/1920 "On Jewish Communities," as amended and supplemented by subsequent legislation, and in accordance with their duly approved regulations. Their administration shall be entrusted, on a provisional basis and until the holding of elections, to administrative Committees composed of three (3) to five (5) members, appointed by decision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education upon the recommendation of the competent Prefect or of the Central Jewish Council as provided for in article 5 of the present Law. Until the election of regular Administrative Boards, the provisional Committees shall exercise all rights and powers set forth in article 7 of Law 2456/1920. However, with regard to: (a) the expropriation of immovable Community property or the establishment of any real encumbrance thereon; (b) the conclusion of a lease of immovable property for a term exceeding one (1) year; and (c) the contracting of loans, a decision of the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs shall be required, issued following the prior consent of the Central Jewish Council.

**Article 2**

All Jewish Communities of Greece which, at the time of publication of the present Law, number one half or less of one half of the number of their pre-war members shall be considered partially reconstituted. For the purposes of their provisional administration, the provisions of the preceding article shall also apply. Moreover, the limitations set forth in the same article regarding the powers of the administration shall remain in effect even after the election of governing bodies and for a period of one (1) year following the completion of the repatriation of displaced Jews. If, in the meantime, the number of members of the Community exceeds one half of the pre-German persecution membership, the Community shall thenceforth be considered fully reconstituted, and the provisions of the preceding article shall apply accordingly.

**Article 3**

All Jewish Communities of Greece in the Country which, at the time of publication of the present Law, do not meet the number of twenty (20) Jewish families required under article 1 of Law 2456/1920 for recognition as a Community shall be deemed dormant. For the management of the affairs and interests of such Communities, a provisional Committee of three (3) to five (5) members shall be appointed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education upon the recommendation of the Prefect or the Central Jewish Council. The limitations set forth in article 1 of the present Law shall apply to these provisional Committees. If a Community previously deemed dormant reaches a membership sufficient to be considered partially or fully reconstituted, the corresponding provisions of the preceding articles shall apply, with the necessary adjustments, for each respective case.

#### **Article 4**

In all Communities that are fully or partially reconstituted, elections shall be held within six (6) months from the publication of the present Law, on a date to be determined by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education, for the purpose of electing the governing bodies provided for under the Law.

#### **Article 5**

For the purpose of providing a unified representation of the Jewish Communities and coordinating their activities, a provisional "Central Jewish Council for Coordination and Advisory Functions" is hereby established in Athens.

This Council shall represent the Jewish Communities of the country before the Authorities and before domestic or foreign relief and rehabilitation organizations; it shall collect and allocate any funds or other aid sent to it, whether from domestic or foreign sources, intended for the benefit of the entirety of the Jewish Communities, of the country or their members and shall make recommendations to the Government, the Authorities, and the recognized domestic or foreign organizations, regarding measures for the reconstitution of the Jewish Communities, the repatriation, care, and rehabilitation of Jews displaced by the enemy, and the collection and safeguarding of abandoned Jewish property.

#### **Article 6**

1. The aforementioned Central Jewish Council shall consist of twelve (12) members and shall be appointed by decision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education from among Jewish citizens of Greece permanently residing in Athens, preferably selected from the elected members of the Administrative Boards of the main Jewish Communities of the country.
2. The Central Jewish Council shall be obliged, upon the election of the elected Administrative Boards of the Jewish Communities, to convene in Athens a conference of their representatives, submit an account of its activities, after which the Council shall be considered dissolved. The same conference of representatives of the Jewish Communities may submit a proposal to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education for the establishment of a union of the Jewish Communities of Greece, for the purpose of coordinating common objectives in accordance with the applicable Laws and providing a unified representation of the Communities.
3. For the purpose of covering its operational expenses, the Central Council shall be entitled to withhold up to five percent (5%) of the funds referred to in article 5, par. 2.
4. The organization and operation of the Central Council shall be governed by internal regulations, drafted by the Council and approved by decision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education.
5. The Central Council shall operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education, which exercises oversight also over the individual Jewish Communities.

#### **Article 7**

1. Laws 2544/1940, 3290/1944, and Legislative Decree 1326/1942 are hereby repealed. The Central Council of Jewish Communities of Greece, established by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs by Act No. 40711 of 20 November 1944, is hereby abolished.

2. By Royal Decrees, issued upon the initiative of the Minister of Religious Affairs and Education, any detail necessary for the implementation of the present Law may be regulated.

**Article 8**

The present Law shall enter into force upon its publication in the Government Gazette.