

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

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PRESS RELEASE

**DUZGIT INTEGRITY ARBITRATION
(THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA V. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE)**

THE HAGUE, 2 MARCH 2016

Hearing held at the Peace Palace, in The Hague

On 22 October 2013, the Republic of Malta (“**Malta**”) instituted arbitral proceedings against the Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (“**São Tomé and Príncipe**”) under Article 287 and Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “**Convention**”). The dispute concerns the arrest of a Maltese flagged vessel – *Duzgit Integrity* – in the waters of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Tribunal was constituted on 13 March 2014. On the basis of the Parties’ agreement and Article 3 of Annex VII to the Convention, the Tribunal is composed of three arbitrators: Professor Alfred H.A. Soons (President), Professor Tullio Treves and Judge James L. Kateka. The Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in the arbitration.

After a full exchange of written pleadings, on 23 and 24 February 2016, a hearing was held at the Peace Palace, in The Hague. The hearing pertained to all issues of jurisdiction, admissibility, merits, and any entitlement to reparation.

At the hearing, Malta was represented by its Agent and Counsel, Mr. Ramón García-Gallardo, and Co-Agent and Co-Counsel, Dr. Alexander Mizzi (both of King & Wood Mallesons LLP). First Secretary to the Embassy of Malta to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Gabriel George Camenzuli, and Ship-owner Representatives, Mr. Metin Düzgit and Captain Kürşad Öztürk, also attended the hearing. Mr. Alejandro Camacho González and Ms. Maria Inês Elvas Ferrari Careto (both of King & Wood Mallesons LLP) provided legal assistance.

São Tomé and Príncipe was represented by Co-Agent, His Excellency Américo Afonso Lima Viegas, Chargé d’affaires a.i. of the Embassy of São Tomé and Príncipe in Brussels, and Co-Agents and Co-Counsels, Ms. Juliette Luycks and Mr. Ruud Niesink (both of Clifford Chance LLP). Counsels, Messrs. Kelve Nobre de Carvalho (Office of the Prosecution of São Tomé and Príncipe) and Guilherme Posser da Costa (government legal counsel) also attended the hearing, as well as legal advisor, Mr. James Harrison, Ph.D (of the University of Edinburgh).

The Arbitral Tribunal held preliminary deliberations following the hearing. The Arbitral Tribunal plans to deliberate further and issue an award in due course.

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