

**PRESS RELEASE****DISPUTE CONCERNING COASTAL STATE RIGHTS IN THE BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOV,  
AND KERCH STRAIT (UKRAINE V. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

THE HAGUE, 20 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Commencement of Hearing Concerning the Merits and Remaining Issues of Jurisdiction and Admissibility**

As communicated in press releases issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) on 7 August 2024 and 28 August 2024, the hearing in the arbitration Concerning Coastal State Rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait, instituted by Ukraine against the Russian Federation will begin on 23 September 2024.

The hearing will address the merits and remaining issues of jurisdiction and admissibility, and will be held in the Administrative Council Chamber at the seat of the PCA, at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

*Public Access to the Hearing*

Pursuant to Article 27(3) of the Rules of Procedure, the opening and closing statements made by each Party’s Agent will be open to the public. Under Article 27(4) of the Rules of Procedure, the transcripts of the Parties’ Agents’ public opening and closing statements will be made available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/149/>) promptly after the conclusion of the hearing.

No public access will be available for the remainder of the hearing. However, under Article 27(4) of the Rules of Procedure, transcripts of the remainder of the hearing shall be published together with the Arbitral Tribunal’s final award, subject to any redactions of confidential information authorized by the Arbitral Tribunal.

*Live-streaming on the Internet*

The opening and closing statement made by each Party’s Agent will be webcast on the internet via live-stream. The live-stream may be accessed through the following link:

<https://pca-cpa.org/en/news/pca-press-release-pca-case-no-2017-06>

The opening statement of Ukraine will be delivered on Monday, 23 September 2024, at 10:20 a.m. (CEST); the statement is expected to conclude by 10:40 a.m. (CEST).

The Russian Federation will deliver its opening statement on Monday, 23 September 2024, at 10:40 a.m. (CEST); the statement is expected to conclude by 11:00 a.m. (CEST).

Ukraine will deliver its public closing statement on Thursday, 3 October 2024, at 5:40 p.m. (CEST); the statement is expected to conclude by 6:00 p.m. (CEST).

The Russian Federation will deliver its public closing statement on Saturday, 5 October 2024, at 5:40 p.m. (CEST); the statement is expected to conclude by 6:00 p.m. (CEST).

### *Publication of the Parties' Written Pleadings*

In accordance with Article 27(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the Parties' written pleadings on the merits and remaining issues of jurisdiction and admissibility, as well as any non-confidential documentary evidence related thereto, shall be published on 23 September 2024 on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/149/>).

### **Background to the Dispute**

The arbitral proceedings were instituted on 16 September 2016 when Ukraine served on the Russian Federation a Notification and Statement of Claim<sup>1</sup> under Annex VII to the UNCLOS. The Notification and Statement of Claim refers to a “dispute concerning coastal state rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait”.

The five-member Arbitral Tribunal is chaired by Judge Jin-Hyun Paik as President (a national of the Republic of Korea). The other members are Judge Boualem Bouguetaia (Algeria), Judge Alonso Gómez-Robledo (Mexico), Professor Alexander Vylegzhanin (Russian Federation), and Professor Vaughan Lowe KC (United Kingdom). Professor Lowe was appointed by Ukraine. Professor Vylegzhanin was appointed by the Russian Federation. Judges Paik, Bouguetaia, and Gómez-Robledo were appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 3, paragraph 2, of Annex VII to the UNCLOS. The PCA acts as Registry for the proceedings.

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/149/>). In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the PCA, after consultation with the Parties, will from time to time issue press releases, concerning the status of the proceedings. Moreover, procedural orders and decisions of the Arbitral Tribunal will be made publicly available on the website of PCA seven days after they have been notified to the Parties. Further, any award of the Arbitral Tribunal will be made public unless both Parties object.

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### **Background on the Permanent Court of Arbitration**

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 124 Contracting Parties. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA's International Bureau is currently administering 6 interstate arbitrations, 1 other inter-state proceeding, 98 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 104 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 5 other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at [www.pca-cpa.org](http://www.pca-cpa.org).

The PCA has acted as Registry in numerous arbitrations and conciliations between States, including in 14 proceedings under UNCLOS.

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<sup>1</sup> The full title of the document is “Notification under Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of UNCLOS and Statement of the Claim and Grounds on which it is Based”.