

**PRESS RELEASE****PCA CASE No. 2024-03****OJSC BELARUSKALI V. THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

THE HAGUE, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

**UNCITRAL Arbitration Commenced under the Belarus-Lithuania Bilateral Investment Treaty; Adoption of Terms of Appointment and Issuance of Procedural Orders**

By Notice of Arbitration dated 17 October 2023, arbitral proceedings were commenced by OJSC “Belaruskali” (the “**Claimant**”) against the Republic of Lithuania pursuant to Article 8 of the *Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Promotion and Protection of Investments* dated 5 March 1999 (the “**Belarus-Lithuania BIT**”) and in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976.

In its Notice of Arbitration, the Claimant alleges that the Republic of Lithuania breached the Belarus-Lithuania BIT in relation to its investments in the area of transportation, storage and transshipment of chemical products in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Following a first procedural video conference with the Parties, held on 8 February 2024, the Tribunal and the Parties executed Terms of Appointment and the Tribunal issued its Procedural Order No. 1, in which, *inter alia*, the procedural calendar for these proceedings was fixed. By Procedural Order No. 2, the Tribunal further fixed the seat of arbitration to Geneva, Switzerland. At the request of the Claimant, the Tribunal subsequently suspended these proceedings from 24 June 2024 to 30 August 2024.

The Tribunal in these proceedings is composed of Professor Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler (presiding arbitrator), Professor Azzedine Kettani (appointed by the Claimant) and Professor Zachary Douglas KC (appointed by the Republic of Lithuania). Dr. Johannes Fahner acts as the Secretary of the Tribunal. By agreement of the Parties, the PCA acts as the registry for the proceedings.

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA website at: <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/328/>.

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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 123 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 inter-state arbitrations, 1 other inter-state proceeding, 98 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 100 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).

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