



## PRESS RELEASE

### PCA CASE NO. 2024-45: UK-SANDEEL

#### (THE EUROPEAN UNION V. THE UNITED KINGDOM)

THE HAGUE, 17 JANUARY 2025

#### **Arbitration Tribunal Schedules Hearing**

In its Procedural Order No. 1, adopted on 22 November 2024, the Arbitration Tribunal constituted under Article 740 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“Trade and Cooperation Agreement”) in the arbitration instituted by the European Union against the United Kingdom scheduled a hearing. The hearing will be held from 28 January 2025 to 30 January 2025 in the Great Hall of Justice at the seat of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

Pursuant to the timetable for the proceedings set by the Arbitration Tribunal in Procedural Order No. 1, adopted on 22 November 2024, the Parties have submitted written pleadings, fact exhibits, and legal authorities, which are published on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/334/>) in accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure and paragraph 11.3 of Procedural Order No. 1.

After ascertaining the views of the Parties, the Arbitration Tribunal, in its Procedural Order No. 2, confirmed the dates for the hearing and determined the modalities for public access of the hearing.

On Tuesday, 28 January 2025, and Wednesday, 29 January 2025, the Arbitration Tribunal will sit from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. On Thursday, 30 January 2025, the Arbitration Tribunal will sit from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

#### **Public Access to the Hearing**

In accordance with the agreement of the Parties and pursuant to paragraph 8.3 of Procedural Order No. 2, the hearing will be open to the public with the exception of selected portions of the hearing that may be held in closed session to protect confidential information.

In accordance with paragraph 11.6 of Procedural Order No. 1, transcripts of the parts of the hearing that are open to the public will be made publicly available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/334/>) promptly after the conclusion of the hearing. Transcripts of any non-public parts of the hearing will be made publicly available with the publication of the final ruling, subject to any redactions of confidential information.

During the hearing, members of the public will be able to follow the hearing in the following ways:

#### **Attendance by Members of the Diplomatic Corps**

Interested members of the diplomatic corps are welcome to follow the hearing in the Great Hall of Justice.

The PCA requests members of the diplomatic corps who plan to attend the hearing to notify it accordingly by 23 January 2025, by e-mail to [2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org](mailto:2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org). Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 24 January 2025.

### **Attendance by Representatives of the Press**

Representatives of the press may follow the hearing in a separate viewing room on the Peace Palace premises via live-stream. Representatives of the press are advised that there will be no possibility to connect to the video and audio stream in the viewing room.

On the first day of the hearing, press photographers and camera operators will be permitted in the hearing room before the hearing begins. No photography will be permitted in the hearing room once the hearing has begun, and photographers and camera operators will be asked to leave the hearing room prior to this. In addition, a selection of high-resolution pictures taken by a professional photographer on the PCA's behalf will be made available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/334/>). These photographs may be freely downloaded and reproduced, with appropriate credit.

Interested representatives of the press are required to register by 23 January 2025, by e-mail to [2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org](mailto:2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org), enclosing the accreditation form attached to the present Press Release. Should the number of registrants exceed the number of available seats, the PCA will allocate seats on a first-come-first-served basis. Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 24 January 2025. Only those registrants who have received advance confirmation from the PCA will be granted access to the Peace Palace.

Representatives of the press are kindly asked to arrive at the Peace Palace no later than 9:30 a.m. on 28 and 29 January 2025 and no later than 9:00 a.m. on 30 January 2025, to allow the requisite security procedures to be completed. Representatives of the Press are also kindly requested to leave the Peace Palace premises by 5:30 p.m. on each day of the hearing.

Representatives of parties involved in PCA proceedings occasionally agree to provide interviews on the Peace Palace premises after sittings. Please note that the PCA does not facilitate or arrange such interview requests. Journalists are kindly asked to conduct such interviews on the entrance steps to the Palace or in the entry hall. It also remains open to the press to conduct any further interviews outside the Peace Palace gates.

### **Attendance by Members of the General Public**

Members of the general public wishing to follow the hearing must notify the PCA accordingly by 23 January 2025, by e-mail to [2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org](mailto:2024-45-registration@pca-cpa.org). Confirmation of attendance will be communicated by e-mail on 24 January 2025. Only those members of the general public who have received advance confirmation from the PCA will be granted access to the Peace Palace.

Upon prior registration and confirmation, members of the general public will be able to follow the hearing from the public gallery in the Great Hall of Justice. Any seats available for the general public will be allocated in order of registration, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Those members of the general public who have received confirmation from the PCA are kindly asked to arrive at the Peace Palace no later than 9:30 a.m. on 28 and 29 January 2025 and no later than 9:00 a.m. on 30 January 2025, to allow the requisite security procedures to be completed. They are kindly requested to leave the Peace Palace premises as soon as the hearing has concluded for the day.

## **Parking**

No parking is allowed on the Peace Palace grounds, and all vehicles should be parked in the neighbouring streets.

## **Background to the Dispute**

The arbitral proceedings were instituted on 25 October 2024 when the European Union served on the United Kingdom a request for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal pursuant to Article 739 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The request refers to “the [United Kingdom’s] decision to prohibit since 26 March 2024 the fishing of sandeel in English waters of the North Sea and in all Scottish waters”.

The three-member Tribunal is chaired by Dr. Penelope Jane Ridings, MNZM (a national of New Zealand). The other members are Professor H  l  ne Ruiz Fabri (France) and the Hon. Justice Mr. David Unterhalter (South Africa). 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/334/>). The PCA, after consultation with the Parties, will issue press releases from time to time concerning the status of the proceedings.

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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 7 inter-state arbitrations, 1 other inter-state proceeding, 95 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 109 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 4 other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at [www.pca-cpa.org](http://www.pca-cpa.org).

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