

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

THE HAGUE, 21 FEBRUARY 2020

Issuance of Award Concerning Preliminary Objections of the Russian Federation

In an arbitration under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”) in respect of coastal State rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait, the Arbitral Tribunal has issued an award concerning the preliminary objections of the Russian Federation. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) acts as registry for the proceedings.

The arbitration was instituted on 16 September 2016, when Ukraine served on the Russian Federation a Notification and Statement of Claim¹ under Annex VII to 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.”

Following the filing of a Memorial by Ukraine, the Russian Federation raised preliminary objections to jurisdiction. The Arbitral Tribunal decided, in [Procedural Order No. 3](#), that these preliminary objections should be addressed in a preliminary phase of the proceedings. The Parties accordingly filed written pleadings concerning the preliminary objections. The Arbitral Tribunal also held a hearing concerning the preliminary objections from 10 to 14 June 2019 at the Peace Palace, The Hague. The Parties’ written pleadings and the opening statements presented by the Agents of the Parties at the hearing are publicly available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/149/>).

On 21 February 2020, the Arbitral Tribunal issued an award concerning the preliminary objections of the Russian Federation. In accordance with [Procedural Order No. 2](#), the award will be published on the PCA Case Repository in due course, after the Parties have had an opportunity to consider whether any part of the award should be designated as containing “confidential information.”

The five-member 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), Judge Vladimir Vladimirovich Golitsyn (Russian Federation), and Professor Vaughan Lowe QC (United Kingdom). Professor Lowe was appointed by Ukraine. Judge Golitsyn 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 UNCLOS.

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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 122 Contracting Parties. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration,

¹ 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”.

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 four inter-state disputes, 104 investor-State arbitrations, and 53 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity and two other disputes. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

The PCA has acted as Registry in numerous arbitrations and conciliations between States, including in 15 proceedings under UNCLOS.

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