

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MOX Plant Hearings suspended; Ireland requests provisional measures**

On Friday 13 June 2003, the Tribunal established under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to hear arguments in the MOX Plant arbitration suspended the hearings begun on 10 June 2003. The President of the Tribunal, Judge Thomas A. Mensah, announced on Friday afternoon that, following certain jurisdictional objections raised by the United Kingdom, the Tribunal had decided to adjourn the hearings, with plans to resume proceedings not later than 1 December 2003. The President further stated, that under the circumstances, the Tribunal would entertain a request from Ireland for further provisional measures. For the full text of the President's statement, see President's Statement 13 June 2003.

Ireland filed a request for provisional measures with the Tribunal on Monday 16 June 2003. The Tribunal began hearing the Parties' arguments regarding Ireland's request on Tuesday 17 June 2003. Hearings are expected to continue through Monday 23 June, after which a formal Order will be issued.

Subject to a need to address confidential matters, the hearings on Ireland's provisional measures request are open to the public. Where confidential information is to be discussed at the hearings, members of the public will be asked to leave. Such information will also be redacted from any documents made available to the public. Persons wishing to attend the hearings should contact Ms. Charlotte Jonas at the International Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (070-302-4165) to arrange for access to the Peace Palace. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is based in the Peace Palace, serves as registry for the arbitral tribunal.

The Hague, 17 June 2003