



PRESS RELEASE

PCA CASE NO. 2023-60

BERN CONVENTION ARBITRATION (THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN V. THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA)

THE HAGUE, 17 OCTOBER 2025

Hearing on Bifurcation in Arbitration under the Bern Convention

On 16 October 2025, the Tribunal in an arbitration commenced by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Armenia pursuant to Article 18 of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats of 19 September 1979 ("**Bern Convention**") held a Hearing on Bifurcation ("**Hearing**"). The Hearing took place at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the headquarters of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("**PCA**"), which acts as Registry for the proceedings.

During the Hearing, the Parties presented oral submissions on whether the preliminary objections raised by the Republic of Armenia (in its Memorial on Preliminary Objections dated 12 June 2025) shall be bifurcated, and ruled upon in a preliminary phase of the proceedings.

A copy of the Parties' written submissions on bifurcation (namely, the Republic of Azerbaijan's Opposition to Bifurcation of Preliminary Objections and the Republic of Armenia's Response to Opposition to Bifurcation), may be found on the PCA website (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/314/>). The Republic of Armenia's Memorial on Preliminary Objections and its accompanying evidence will be published at the opening of a Hearing on Preliminary Objections, if any of the preliminary objections are addressed in a preliminary phase.

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan was led by its designated Agent, H.E. Mr. Elnur Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Republic of Azerbaijan. The delegation of the Republic of Armenia was led by its designated Agent, H.E. Mr. Karen Andreasyan, Representative of the Republic of Armenia on International Legal Matters.

Background of the Arbitration

The arbitral proceedings were commenced on 18 January 2023 when the Republic of Azerbaijan served on the Republic of Armenia a Notice of Arbitration pursuant to Article 18(2) of the Bern Convention. According to Azerbaijan, a dispute has arisen between the Parties in relation to certain alleged breaches by Armenia of its obligations under the Bern Convention.

The three-member Tribunal is chaired by Dr. Václav Mikulka as presiding arbitrator (a national of the Czech Republic). The other members are Judge Bruno E. Simma (a national of Germany and Austria), who was appointed by the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Judge Nicolas Michel (a national of Switzerland), who was appointed by the Republic of Armenia.

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA website: <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/314/>.

Background on the Permanent Court of Arbitration

The PCA is an independent intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 126 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, 90 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 93 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 2 other proceedings.

More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
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PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING PRESS RELEASE

1. The Tribunal in PCA Case No. 2023-60, comprising Dr. Václav Mikulka (centre), Judge Bruno E. Simma (left), and Judge Nicolas Michel (right), sits in the PCA Administrative Council Chamber in the Peace Palace, The Hague.
2. Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, led by the Agent of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Elnur Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (front-left).
3. Delegation of the Republic of Armenia, led by the Agent of the Republic of Armenia, H.E. Mr. Karen Andreasyan, Representative of the Republic of Armenia on International Legal Matters (front-right).

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS

(High-Resolution Photographs available at <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/314/>)

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