



PRESS RELEASE

DISPUTE CONCERNING THE DETENTION OF UKRAINIAN NAVAL VESSELS AND SERVICEMEN (UKRAINE V. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

THE HAGUE, 9 DECEMBER 2025

Arbitral Tribunal Schedules Hearing on the Merits

In an arbitration under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") concerning the dispute concerning the detention of Ukrainian naval vessels and servicemen, the Arbitral Tribunal has scheduled a hearing on the merits. The hearing will be held on 8 and 9 January 2026 at the seat of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA") at the Peace Palace, The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Arbitral Tribunal issued an Award on the Preliminary Objections of the Russian Federation on 27 June 2022. Pursuant to the timetable for further proceedings set by the Arbitral Tribunal in Procedural Order No. 1, adopted on 22 November 2019, and most recently revised in Procedural Order No. 7, adopted on 1 December 2023, the Parties submitted written pleadings, witness statements, expert reports, fact exhibits, and legal authorities.

Following completion of the written phase of the proceedings, and after inviting the views of the Parties, the Arbitral Tribunal confirmed the dates for the hearing and determined the modalities for public access of the hearing.

Public Access of the Hearing

Pursuant to Article 28(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Arbitral Tribunal, the presentation of the Parties' opening statements at the hearing will be open to the public. The opening statements will be live-streamed on the website of the PCA: www.pca-cpa.org.

Background to the Dispute

The arbitral proceedings were instituted on 1 April 2019 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 the detention of Ukrainian naval vessels and servicemen.

The Members of the Arbitral Tribunal are Judge Gudmundur Eiriksson (Iceland), as President, Sir Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom), Professor Alexander N. Vylegzhanin (Russian Federation), Judge James L. Kateka (Tanzania) and Judge Kathy-Ann Brown (Jamaica).

Further information about the proceedings is available on the PCA website at <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/229/>. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the PCA, after consultation with the Parties, will from time-to-time issue press releases, concerning the status of the proceedings. Moreover, procedural orders and decisions of the Arbitral Tribunal will be made publicly

¹The full title of the document is "Notification under Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Statement of the Claim and Grounds on which it is Based".

available on the website of the PCA seven days after they have been notified to the Parties. Further, any award of the Arbitral Tribunal will be made public unless both Parties agree otherwise.

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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 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 seven inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 98 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 99 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and five other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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