

## PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

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## COUR PERMANENTE D'ARBITRAGE

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### PORTUGAL AND THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION CONCLUDE A HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT

THE HAGUE, 22 JUNE 2017

On Friday, 16 June 2017, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal in Lisbon, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Ambassador Ana Martinho, and the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA"), Mr. Hugo Siblesz, signed a "Host State Agreement" that will facilitate the recourse to the services provided by the PCA in the territory of the Portuguese Republic.

Under the terms of this Agreement, Portugal will provide facilities and services required for PCA-administered proceedings, such as office and meeting space and secretarial services at no cost to the disputing parties. The Agreement also grants privileges and immunities to arbitrators and participants in PCA-administered cases.

Since the 1990s, the PCA has adopted a policy of concluding Host Country Agreements with its Member States with the goal of making its dispute resolution services more widely accessible throughout the world, not just at its headquarters at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Through such agreements, the host country and the PCA establish a legal framework within which PCA-administered proceedings (including arbitration, conciliation, mediation, and fact-finding commissions of inquiry) can be conducted in the territory of the host country on an ad hoc basis under conditions similar to those guaranteed by the PCA's Headquarters Agreement with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Other countries with which the PCA has concluded Host Country Agreements include Argentina, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, South Africa and Viet Nam.

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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 121 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 8 interstate disputes, 75 investor-State arbitrations, and 34 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity. More information about the PCA can be found at [www.pca-cpa.org](http://www.pca-cpa.org).

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