

**PRESS RELEASE****PCA HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
ENTERS INTO FORCE**

THE HAGUE, 1 JUNE 2023

On 22 March 2023, the Republic of Austria notified the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("PCA") of the completion of all internal legal and administrative procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Host Country Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the PCA, signed on 22 December 2022.

Pursuant to the provisions of its Article 21(1), the Agreement has therefore entered into force today, 1 June 2023. The Agreement will facilitate the conduct of PCA proceedings in the Republic of Austria and updates the framework for the operation of the PCA's Vienna Office.

Since the 1990s, the PCA has adopted a policy of concluding Host Country Agreements with its Contracting Parties 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 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, Brazil, Chile, China (in respect of Hong Kong SAR), Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Uruguay, 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 122 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.

More information about the PCA can be found at [www.pca-cpa.org](http://www.pca-cpa.org).

The Republic of Austria became a Contracting Party to the 1899 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes on 12 November 1918. As a Contracting Party to the founding Convention of the PCA, Austria forms part of the PCA Administrative Council, and is represented on the PCA's panel of independent arbitrators known as Members of the Court. These Members may be called upon to serve as arbitrators in PCA-administered disputes. Austria's current Members of the Court are Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hafner, Prof. MMag. Dr. August Reinisch, LL.M., Prof. Dr. DDr. h.c. Wolfgang Benedek and Prof. Dr. Ursula Kriebaum.

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