



PRESS RELEASE

DISPUTE CONCERNING COASTAL STATE RIGHTS IN THE BLACK SEA, SEA OF AZOV, AND KERCH STRAIT (UKRAINE V. THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION)

THE HAGUE, 22 APRIL 2026

Issuance of Award

In an arbitration under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”) concerning coastal State rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait, the Arbitral Tribunal has issued its Award. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) acts as registry for the proceedings.

The arbitration was instituted on 16 September 2016, 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 coastal state rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait.”

Following the issuance of the [Award Concerning the Preliminary Objections of the Russian Federation](#) on 21 February 2020, the Parties engaged in the two rounds of written pleadings. Upon completion of the written phase, the Arbitral Tribunal held a hearing concerning the merits and remaining issues of jurisdiction and admissibility from 23 September to 5 October 2024 at the Peace Palace, in The Hague. The Parties’ written pleadings, as well as the opening and closing statements delivered by the Agents at the hearing, are publicly available on the PCA Case Repository (<https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/149/>).

On 22 April 2026, the Arbitral Tribunal issued its Award. In accordance with [Procedural Order No. 2](#), the Award will be published on the PCA Case Repository in due course, after the Parties have had an opportunity to consider whether any part of the award should be designated as containing “confidential information”.

The five-member Arbitral Tribunal is chaired by Judge Jin-Hyun Paik as President (a national of the Republic of Korea). The other members are Judge Boualem Bouguetaia (Algeria), Judge Alonso Gómez-Robledo (Mexico), Professor Alexander Vylegzhanin (Russian Federation), and Professor Vaughan Lowe KC (United Kingdom). Professor Lowe was appointed by Ukraine. Professor Vylegzhanin was appointed by the Russian Federation. Judges Paik, Bouguetaia, and Gómez-Robledo were appointed in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 3, paragraph 2, of Annex VII to UNCLOS.

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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 128 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

¹ The full title of the document is “Notification under Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of UNCLOS and Statement of the Claim and Grounds on which it is Based”.

Bureau is currently administering eight inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 86 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 96 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and eight other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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