

**PRESS RELEASE****PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION ENTERS INTO
HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

THE HAGUE/MADRID, 7 JULY 2026

On Monday, 6 July 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares Bueno, and the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”), H.E. Dr. Hab. Marcin Czepelak, signed a Host Country Agreement that will facilitate the conduct of PCA proceedings within the country.

The signing ceremony took place in Madrid at the Palacio de Santa Cruz, seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the presence of representatives from the Iberoamerican arbitral community, including the presidents of the *Centro Internacional e Iberoamericano de Arbitraje de Madrid* (CIAM) and the *Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje* (CEIA). The PCA Secretary-General was accompanied by PCA Senior Legal Counsel Mr. José Luis Aragón Cardiel.



The Host Country Agreement establishes a framework of privileges and immunities for adjudicators and other participants in PCA-administered proceedings. In addition, the Agreement provides for the designation of facilities in Spain for PCA meetings and hearings and, crucially, for the establishment of a permanent PCA office in Madrid.

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 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, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Paraguay, 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 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 Bureau is currently administering seven inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 90 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment laws, 101 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 11 other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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