

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

THE HAGUE, 27 JUNE 2022

Issuance of Award on the Preliminary Objections of the Russian Federation

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 issued an award on the preliminary objections of the Russian Federation. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”) acts as registry for the proceedings.

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. Following the filing of a Memorial by Ukraine, the Russian Federation raised preliminary objections to jurisdiction. The Arbitral Tribunal decided, in [Procedural Order No. 2](#), that these preliminary objections would be addressed in a preliminary phase of the proceedings. Ukraine was accordingly invited to file a written pleading on the preliminary objections. The Arbitral Tribunal then held a hearing on the preliminary objections from 11 to 15 October 2021 at the Peace Palace, The Hague. The Parties’ written pleadings and the opening statements presented by the Agents of the Parties at the hearing are available on the [PCA website](#).

On 27 June 2022, the Arbitral Tribunal issued an award on the preliminary objections of the Russian Federation. In accordance with the [Rules of Procedure](#), the award will be published on the PCA website 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 Professor Donald McRae as President (a national of Canada and New Zealand). The other members are Judge Gudmundur Eiriksson (Iceland), Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany), Judge Vladimir Vladimirovich Golitsyn (Russian Federation), and Sir Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom).

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.

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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. The PCA’s International

¹ The 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”.

Bureau is currently administering four inter-state disputes, 106 investor-State arbitrations, 71 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and two other disputes. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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