



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

THE M/V "NORSTAR" CASE (PANAMA V. ITALY)

ITALY RAISES PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS

**TRIBUNAL SETS TIME-LIMITS FOR FILING OF WRITTEN OBSERVATIONS ON THE
PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS RAISED BY ITALY**

On 11 March 2016, Italy filed preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and the admissibility of Panama's application in *The M/V "Norstar" Case (Panama v. Italy)*. Proceedings in the case had been instituted by Panama against Italy by an application filed with the Tribunal on 17 December 2015 (see Press Release 241).

By Order of 15 March 2016, the Tribunal fixed the following time-limits for the filing by Panama of written observations on the preliminary objections filed by Italy, and for Italy to present its written observations in reply, pursuant to article 97, paragraph 3, of the Rules:

Panama: 10 May 2016
Italy: 9 July 2016

Pursuant to article 97 of the Rules of the Tribunal, proceedings on the merits have been suspended.

In its Order of 15 March 2016, the Tribunal notes that, since the Tribunal does not include upon the bench a member of the nationality of either of the parties, both parties have chosen, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 3, of the Statute, a person to participate in the proceedings as a judge *ad hoc*. Mr Gudmundur Eiriksson (Iceland) has been appointed as judge *ad hoc* by Panama and Mr Tullio Treves (Italy) as judge *ad hoc* by Italy. The Tribunal further notes that, since no objection was raised to the designation of the Judges *ad hoc*, they will be admitted to participate in the proceedings after having made the solemn declaration required under article 9 of the Rules.

The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents
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The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org