



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)*

**PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD FROM 20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**SOLEMN DECLARATION BY JUDGES *AD HOC* ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2016**

The public hearing on the preliminary objections raised by Italy in the *M/V "Norstar" Case (Panama v. Italy)* will open on Tuesday, 20 September 2016 at 10 a.m. Judge Vladimir Golitsyn, President of the Tribunal, will preside.

On 17 December 2015, Panama filed its application with the Tribunal in a dispute with Italy regarding the arrest and detention of the *M/V Norstar*, a Panamanian-flagged vessel. On 11 March 2016, Italy filed preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and to the admissibility of Panama's application. By Order of 15 March 2016, the Tribunal fixed the time-limits for the filing of written observations on the preliminary objections, and suspended the proceedings on the merits, pursuant to article 97, paragraph 3, of the Rules of the Tribunal.

By Order of 4 August 2016, the President of the Tribunal fixed 20 September 2016 as the date for the opening of the public hearing on the preliminary objections raised by Italy. The hearing is expected to last three days. The schedule of the hearing will be announced on the website of the Tribunal.

Since the Tribunal does not include upon the Bench a member of the nationality of either of the Parties to the dispute, both Parties have availed themselves of the possibility to choose a judge *ad hoc*, pursuant to article 17, paragraph 3, of the Statute of the Tribunal. The Tribunal will hold a short public sitting on 19 September 2016 at 11 a.m., during which Mr Tullio Treves, Judge *ad hoc* chosen by Italy, and Mr Gudmundur Eiriksson, Judge *ad hoc* chosen by Panama, will make the solemn declaration required under article 9 of the Rules of the Tribunal.

## **Attending the hearing**

The sittings will be held in the main courtroom of the Tribunal and are open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps wishing to attend the hearing are requested to contact the Tribunal's [Protocol Office](#). Members of the press are requested to register in advance with the Press Office using the [online accreditation form](#).

## **Webcast**

The sittings will be broadcast live on the Tribunal's website. A recorded webcast will be made available under Webcast Archives after the close of each sitting. The verbatim records of the hearing will be published shortly thereafter on the website of the Tribunal.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

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](mailto:press@itlos.org)