



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

Unofficial

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Application of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia v. Greece)

The Court to deliver its Judgment on Monday 5 December 2011 at 10 a.m.

THE HAGUE, 24 November 2011. On Monday 5 December 2011, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will deliver its Judgment in the case concerning Application of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia v. Greece).

A public sitting will take place at the Peace Palace in The Hague, during which the President of the Court, Judge Hisashi Owada, will read the Court's Judgment.

History of proceedings

On 17 November 2008, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia instituted proceedings against Greece for what it described as "a flagrant violation of [Greece's] obligations under Article 11" of the Interim Accord signed by the Parties on 13 September 1995" (see Press Release No. 2011/4).

By an Order of 20 January 2009, the Court fixed 20 July 2009 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 20 January 2010 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by Greece. Those pleadings were filed within the time-limits thus prescribed.

On 9 March 2010, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia expressed a desire to be able to respond to the Counter-Memorial of Greece and the objections to jurisdiction and admissibility contained therein by means of a Reply, and to have available for that purpose a time-limit of approximately four and a half months as from the filing of the Counter-Memorial. The Government of Greece had no objection to the granting of this request, provided that it could in turn submit a Rejoinder and would have an identical time-limit available for doing so.

Taking account of the agreement of the Parties, by an Order of 12 March 2010, the Court authorized the submission of a Reply by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and a Rejoinder by Greece. It fixed 9 June 2010 and 27 October 2010 as the respective time-limits for the filing of those pleadings. The Reply and the Rejoinder were filed within the time-limits thus prescribed.

Public hearings were held from Monday 21 March to Wednesday 30 March 2011. During the hearings the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was led by H.E. Mr. Antonio Miloshoski, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as Agent and H.E. Mr. Nikola Dimitrov, Ambassador of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as Co-Agent. The delegation of Greece was led by H.E. Mr. Georges Savvaides, Ambassador, and Ms Maria Telalian, Legal Adviser, Head of the Public International Law Section of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Agents.

Submissions of the Parties

At the end of the oral proceedings, the Parties presented the following final submissions to the Court:

For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

“On the basis of the evidence and legal arguments presented in its written and oral pleadings, the Applicant requests the Court:

- (i) to reject the Respondent’s objections as to the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the Applicant’s claims;
- (ii) to adjudge and declare that the Respondent, through its State organs and Agents, has violated its obligations under Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Interim Accord; and
- (iii) to order that the Respondent immediately take all necessary steps to comply with its obligations under Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Interim Accord, and to cease and desist from objecting in any way, whether directly or indirectly, to the Applicant’s membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and/or of any other ‘international, multilateral and regional organizations and institutions’ of which the Respondent is a member, in circumstances where the Applicant is to be referred to in such organization or institution by the designation provided for in paragraph 2 of United Nations Security Council resolution 817 (1993).”

For Greece:

“On the basis of the preceding evidence and legal arguments presented in its written and oral pleadings, the Respondent, the Hellenic Republic, requests the Court to adjudge and declare:

- (i) that the case brought by the Applicant before the Court does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Court and that the Applicant’s claims are inadmissible;
- (ii) in the event that the Court finds that it has jurisdiction and that the claims are admissible, that the Applicant’s claims are unfounded.”

NOTE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

1. The public sitting will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace. Mobile telephones are permitted in the courtroom provided they are switched off.

2. **Media representatives** are subject to an **online accreditation procedure**, details of which can be found in the Media Advisory (2011/1) attached to this Press Release. **The accreditation procedure will close at midnight on Thursday 1 December 2011.**

3. **Individual visitors** (with the exception of members of the Diplomatic Corps) **and groups are subject to an online admission procedure.** They are kindly requested to fill out the relevant form on the Court's website (click on "Attending a Hearing"). **The admission procedure will close at midnight on Thursday 1 December 2011.**

4. At the end of the sitting, a Press Release, a summary of the Judgment and the full text of the Judgment will be distributed. All of these documents will be made available at the same time on the Court's website.

5. The public sitting will be **broadcast live and in full on the Court's website** (www.icj-cij.org), via the "multimedia" link, from 10 a.m. local time.

Those later wishing to access the recorded webcast of the reading are invited to click on the temporary "Video On Demand" (VOD) link featured on the Court's website. This link will be deactivated three months after the reading, **at midnight on 5 March 2012.**

Note: The Court's press releases do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. It is assisted by a Registry, its international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English.

The ICJ, a civil court open only to States for contentious proceedings and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial institution composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), an institution founded in 1899, which is independent of the United Nations.

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