



# INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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## Press Release

Unofficial

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### **Maritime Delimitation in the Black Sea** **(Romania v. Ukraine)**

#### **The Court will hold public hearings from Tuesday 2 to Friday 19 September 2008**

THE HAGUE, 24 July 2008. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning Maritime Delimitation in the Black Sea (Romania v. Ukraine), from Tuesday 2 to Friday 19 September 2008, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, seat of the Court.

#### Schedule for the hearings

##### — First round of oral argument

Tuesday 2 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Wednesday 3 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Thursday 4 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Friday 5 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Tuesday 9 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Ukraine
Wednesday 10 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Ukraine
Thursday 11 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Ukraine
Friday 12 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Ukraine

##### — Second round of oral argument

Monday 15 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Tuesday 16 September 2008	10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Romania
Thursday 18 September 2008	3 p.m.-6 p.m.: Ukraine
Friday 19 September 2008	3 p.m.-6 p.m.: Ukraine

### History of proceedings

On 16 September 2004, Romania filed an Application instituting proceedings against Ukraine in respect of a dispute “concern[ing] the establishment of a single maritime boundary between the two States in the Black Sea, thereby delimiting the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zones appertaining to them”.

In its Application Romania states that on 2 June 1997 Ukraine and itself signed a Treaty on Relations of Co-operation and Good-Neighbourliness, as well as an Additional Agreement, by which the two States committed themselves to finding agreement on the above-mentioned matters. Both instruments entered into force on 22 October 1997. Romania contends that negotiations held since 1998 have been inconclusive.

As a basis for the Court’s jurisdiction Romania invokes Article 4 (h) of the Additional Agreement, which provides inter alia that the dispute be brought to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the Parties if unresolved in a reasonable period of time, not later than 2 years after the initiation of the negotiations.

Romania filed its Memorial and Ukraine its Counter-Memorial within the time-limits fixed by the Court by an Order of 19 November 2004 (19 August 2005 and 19 May 2006 respectively). By an Order of 30 June 2006, the Court authorized the filing of a Reply by Romania and a Rejoinder by Ukraine and fixed time-limits for the filing of these pleadings of 22 December 2006 and 15 June 2007 respectively. Romania filed its Reply within the time-limit fixed. By an Order of 8 June 2007 the Court extended the time-limit for the filing of the Rejoinder by Ukraine to 6 July 2007. The Rejoinder was duly filed within the time-limit thus extended.

In their written pleadings, the Parties have inter alia adopted differing positions as to the starting-point of the maritime boundary to be established by the Court and the methodology to be used in drawing that boundary. They consequently advocate different courses for the boundary.

Since the Court included upon the bench no judge of the nationality of either of the Parties, each Party proceeded to exercise its right conferred by Article 31, paragraph 3, of the Statute to choose a judge ad hoc to sit on the case. Romania chose Mr. Jean-Pierre Cot (France) and Ukraine chose Mr. Bernard H. Oxman (United States of America).

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### **NOTE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

1. The public hearings will be held in the Great Hall of Justice of the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Mobile telephones and beepers are permitted in the courtroom provided they are switched off. Any offending device will be temporarily retained.

2. **Media representatives** are subject to an **accreditation procedure**, the details of which can be found in the Media Advisory attached to this Press Release. **The accreditation procedure will close at midday on Monday 1 September 2008.**

3. **Individual visitors** (with the exception of members of the Diplomatic Corps) and **groups** are subject to an admission procedure. They are kindly requested to **give advance notification of their attendance** by filling out the relevant form on the Court's website (to the right of the screen under Calendar, click on "Attending a Hearing", then under "Admission for individuals" or "Admission for groups", click on "Online Application Form"). **The admission procedure will close at midday on Monday 1 September 2008.**

4. Verbatim records of the hearings will be published daily on the Court's website, with translations to follow as soon as practicable thereafter.

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