



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay)

Conclusion of the public hearings

Court begins its deliberation

THE HAGUE, 2 October 2009. The public hearings in the case concerning the Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay) were concluded today. The Court has started its deliberation.

During the hearings, which opened on 14 September 2009 at the Peace Palace, seat of the Court, the delegation of the Argentine Republic was led by H.E. Ms Susana Ruiz Cerutti, Ambassador, Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, as Agent. The delegation of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay was led by H.E. Mr. Carlos Gianelli, Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the United States of America, as Agent.

The Court's Judgment will be rendered at a public sitting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

Final submissions of the Parties

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

For Argentina:

“For all the reasons described in its Memorial, in its Reply and in the oral proceedings, which it fully stands by, the Argentine Republic requests the International Court of Justice:

1. to find that by authorizing

— the construction of the ENCE mill;

— the construction and commissioning of the Botnia mill and its associated facilities on the left bank of the River Uruguay,

the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has violated the obligations incumbent on it under the Statute of the River Uruguay of 26 February 1975 and has engaged its international responsibility;

2. to adjudge and declare that, as a result, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay must:

(i) resume strict compliance with its obligations under the Statute of the River Uruguay of 1975;

(ii) cease immediately the internationally wrongful acts by which it has engaged its responsibility;

(iii) re-establish on the ground and in legal terms the situation that existed before these internationally wrongful acts were committed;

(iv) pay compensation to the Argentine Republic for the damage caused by these internationally wrongful acts that would not be remedied by that situation being restored, of an amount to be determined by the Court at a subsequent stage of these proceedings;

(v) provide adequate guarantees that it will refrain in future from preventing the Statute of the River Uruguay of 1975 from being applied, in particular the consultation procedure established by Chapter II of that Treaty.”

For Uruguay:

“On the basis of the facts and arguments set out in Uruguay’s Counter-Memorial, Rejoinder and during the oral proceedings, Uruguay requests that the Court adjudge and declare that the claims of Argentina are rejected, and Uruguay’s right to continue operating the Botnia plant in conformity with the provisions of the 1975 Statute is affirmed.”

The verbatim records of the hearings held between 14 September and 2 October 2009 are available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org).

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