



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: www.icj-cij.org

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2009/25

16 July 2009

Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay

(Argentina v. Uruguay)

The Court to hold public hearings from Monday 14 September to Friday 2 October 2009

THE HAGUE, 16 July 2009. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, will hold public hearings in the case concerning Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay) from Monday 14 September to Friday 2 October 2009, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of the Court.

Schedule for the hearings

— First round of oral argument

Monday 14 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Argentina
Tuesday 15 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Argentina
Wednesday 16 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Argentina
Thursday 17 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Argentina
Monday 21 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Uruguay
Tuesday 22 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Uruguay
Wednesday 23 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Uruguay
Thursday 24 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Uruguay

— Second round of oral argument

Monday 28 September 2009	3 p.m.-6 p.m.:	Argentina
Tuesday 29 September 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Argentina
Thursday 1 October 2009	3 p.m.-6 p.m.:	Uruguay
Friday 2 October 2009	10 a.m.-1 p.m.:	Uruguay

History of the proceedings

On 4 May 2006, Argentina filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against Uruguay concerning alleged violations by Uruguay of obligations incumbent upon it under the Statute of the River Uruguay, a treaty signed by the two States on 26 February 1975 (hereinafter “the 1975 Statute”). Argentina charged Uruguay with having unilaterally authorized the construction of two pulp mills on the River Uruguay without complying with the obligatory prior notification and consultation procedure. Argentina maintained that the authorization, construction and future commissioning of these mills jeopardized conservation of the environment of the river and of the areas affected by it.

To found the jurisdiction of the Court, Argentina cited Article 60, paragraph 1, of the 1975 Statute, which provides that any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Statute which cannot be settled by direct negotiations may be submitted by either party to the Court.

Argentina’s Application was accompanied by a request for the indication of provisional measures requiring Uruguay, *inter alia*, to suspend the authorizations for the construction of the mills and halt building work on them pending a final decision by the Court and to refrain from any other action which might aggravate or extend the dispute or render its settlement more difficult. In an Order of 13 July 2006 the Court found that “the circumstances, as they [then] present[ed] themselves to [it], [were] not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate provisional measures”.

On 29 November 2006, Uruguay submitted its own request to the Court for the indication of provisional measures on the grounds that, since 20 November 2006, organized groups of Argentine citizens had blockaded “a vital international bridge over the Uruguay River”, that this action was causing it enormous economic damage and that Argentina had taken no steps to put an end to the blockade. At the end of its request Uruguay asked the Court to order Argentina to take “all reasonable and appropriate steps . . . to prevent or end the interruption of transit between Uruguay and Argentina, including the blockading of bridges and roads between the two States”; to “abstain from any measure that might aggravate, extend or make more difficult the settlement of this dispute; and finally to abstain “from any other measure that might prejudice the rights of Uruguay in dispute before the Court”. In an Order of 23 January 2007, the Court found that “the circumstances, as they [then] present[ed] themselves to [it], [were] not such as to require the exercise of its power under Article 41 of the Statute to indicate provisional measures”.

In an Order of 13 July 2006, the Court fixed 15 January 2007 as the time-limit for the filing of a Memorial by Argentina and 20 July 2007 as the time-limit for the filing of a Counter-Memorial by Uruguay. Those pleadings were filed within the time-limits thus prescribed.

In an Order of 14 September 2007, the Court fixed 29 January 2008 and 29 July 2008, respectively, as the time-limits for the filing of a Reply by Argentina and a Rejoinder by Uruguay. Those pleadings having been filed within the time-limits thus fixed, the case is ready for hearing.

The full text of the Application filed by Argentina, as well as the texts of the four Orders made by the Court in this case, are available on the Court’s website (www.icj-cij.org). However, the written pleadings of the Parties (Memorial, Counter-Memorial, Reply and Rejoinder) remain confidential until the Court decides to make them accessible to the public, generally at the opening of the oral proceedings.

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 (2009/h) attached to this Press Release. **The accreditation procedure will close at midnight on Wednesday 9 September 2009.**

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", and then under "Admission for individuals" or "Admission for groups", click on "Online Application Form"). **The admission procedure will close at midnight on Wednesday 9 September 2009.**

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

Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)

Messrs. Boris Heim and Maxime Schouppe, Information Officers (+31 (0)70 302 2337)

Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)

Ms Barbara Dalsbaek, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0) 70 302 2396)