



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO FORCE ON 1 MAY 2007

The Director-General for Legal Affairs of the German Federal Foreign Office, Mr Georg Witschel, was received today by the President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum.

During the meeting, the President and the Director-General for Legal Affairs exchanged the necessary notifications for the entry into force of the Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea regarding the Headquarters of the Tribunal, which was signed in Berlin on 14 December 2004.

The Agreement will enter into force on the first day of the month following the date of receipt of the last of the notifications by which the Tribunal and the Federal Republic of Germany have informed each other of the completion of their respective formal requirements for the entry into force of this Agreement.

Accordingly, the Agreement will enter into force on 1 May 2007.

The Headquarters Agreement defines the legal status of the Tribunal in Germany and regulates the relations between the Tribunal and the host country. The Agreement recalls in its Preamble that "the Tribunal should enjoy such legal capacity, privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of its functions". It contains provisions on matters such as the law applicable to the headquarters district, the immunity of the Tribunal, its property, assets and funds, and the privileges, immunities and exemptions to be accorded to the Members of the Tribunal and its officials, as well as to Agents representing parties, counsel and advocates and witnesses and experts who are required to appear before the Tribunal.

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;
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