



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

Press Release

**THE M/V "NORSTAR" CASE
(PANAMA V. ITALY)**

SCHEDULE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING

Hamburg, 16 August 2018. The public hearing in the *M/V "Norstar" Case (Panama v. Italy)* will open on Monday, 10 September 2018 at 10 a.m. Judge Paik, President of the Tribunal, will preside.

The schedule for the hearings is as follows:

First round of oral argument: 10 – 13 September 2018

Panama

Monday, 10 September 2018: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 11 September 2018: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (and 3 – 4:30 p.m. if required)

Italy

Wednesday, 12 September 2018: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, 13 September 2018: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (and 3 – 4:30 p.m. if required)

Second round of oral argument: 14 – 15 September 2018

Panama

Friday, 14 September 2018: 3 – 6 p.m.

Italy

Saturday, 15 September 2018: 3 – 6 p.m.

Attending the hearing

The hearing will take place in the courtroom of the Tribunal and is open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps wishing to attend the hearing are requested to contact the Tribunal's [Protocol Office](#). Members of the general public are welcome to attend and are requested to register in advance with the [Press Office](#). Members of the press are requested to register in advance with the Press Office using the [accreditation form](#).

Unobtrusive audio and video recording of the public sittings is permitted. Filming is subject to special authorization from the Press Office. Facilities are available for radio crews to connect recording equipment directly to the Tribunal's audio system. Photographs (without flash) may be taken for a few minutes at the opening and at the end of the hearings.

Webcast

The hearing will be broadcast [live](#) on the website. A recorded webcast will be made available under [Webcast Archives](#) after the close of each sitting. The verbatim records of the hearing will be published shortly thereafter on the website of the Tribunal.

History of the proceedings

Proceedings in the case were instituted by Panama against Italy on 17 December 2015, in a dispute concerning the arrest and detention of the *M/V "Norstar"*, a Panamanian-flagged oil tanker. From 1994 until 1998, the *M/V "Norstar"* was engaged in supplying gasoil to mega yachts in the Mediterranean Sea. The vessel was seized by Spanish authorities at the request of Italy when anchored at the bay of Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in September 1998.

By a Judgment dated 4 November 2016, the Tribunal rejected the preliminary objections raised by Italy to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and the admissibility of the Panama's claims.

Panama claims that Italy has breached *inter alia* the obligations established by articles 87 (Freedom of the high seas) and 300 (Good faith and abuse of rights) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and requests that compensation be awarded to Panama. Italy requests the Tribunal to dismiss all of Panama's claims.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

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; E-mail: press@itlos.org