



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

Press Release

(Issued by the Registrar)

TWO ARTICLES OF THE RULES OF THE TRIBUNAL AMENDED

On 15 March 2001, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea amended two articles of the Rules of the Tribunal, articles 111 and 112. These articles relate to cases for prompt release of vessels and crews. The amendments have been adopted in the light of the experience gained in handling such cases. The aim of the amendments is to ensure that slightly more time is given to the respondent to prepare its statement in response, to the applicant to examine the statement in response before commencing its arguments during the oral proceedings, and to the judges to conclude their deliberations and draft the text of the judgment.

The amendments are as follows:

- (i) “in article 111, paragraph 4, for the words and the figure ‘no later than 24 hours’, the words and the figure ‘as soon as possible but not later than 96 hours’ shall be substituted;
- (ii) in article 112, paragraph 3, for the words ‘but not exceeding ten days from the date of receipt of the application’, the words and the figure ‘within a period of 15 days commencing with the first working day following the date on which the application is received’ shall be substituted;
- (iii) in article 112, paragraph 4, for the word ‘ten’, the figure ‘14’ shall be substituted.”

The Tribunal decided that the amendments would enter into force forthwith.

(more)

Article 111, paragraph 4, and article 112, paragraphs 3 and 4, as amended, read as follows:

Article 111, paragraph 4:

“A certified copy of the application shall forthwith be transmitted by the Registrar to the detaining State which may submit a statement in response with supporting documents annexed, to be filed as soon as possible but not later than 96 hours before the hearing referred to in article 112, paragraph 3.”

Article 112, paragraph 3:

“The Tribunal, or the President if the Tribunal is not sitting, shall fix the earliest possible date, within a period of 15 days commencing with the first working day following the date on which the application is received, for a hearing at which each of the parties shall be accorded, unless otherwise decided, one day to present its evidence and arguments.”

Article 112, paragraph 4:

“The decision of the Tribunal shall be in the form of a judgment. The judgment shall be adopted as soon as possible and shall be read at a public sitting of the Tribunal to be held not later than 14 days after the closure of the hearing. The parties shall be notified of the date of the sitting.”

The modified text of the Rules will soon be available on the United Nations website at www.un.org/Depts/los/.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; or United Nations DC-1, suite 1140, New York, NY 10017, Tel.: (1) (212) 963-6480, Fax: (1) (212) 963-0908, E-mail: press@itlos.org

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