



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

Press Release

CASE BETWEEN CHILE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SWORDFISH STOCKS IN THE SOUTH- EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

THE SPECIAL CHAMBER ADOPTS AN ORDER FOR A FURTHER EXTENSION OF TIME-LIMITS

The Special Chamber of the Tribunal constituted to deal with the *Case concerning the Conservation and Sustainable Exploitation of Swordfish Stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean (Chile/European Community)* today adopted an order extending the time-limits of the proceedings for a further two years until 1 January 2008.

The case was submitted to a special chamber of the Tribunal at the request of Chile and the European Community on 19 December 2000. By Order of 20 December 2000, the Tribunal constituted the Special Chamber, consisting of P. Chandrasekhara Rao, President of the Chamber, Judges Caminos, Yankov and Wolfrum and Judge *ad hoc* Orrego Vicuña, and fixed the time-limits for the submission of preliminary objections and the written pleadings. The case, *inter alia*, concerns whether the European Community has complied with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to ensure the conservation of swordfish in the fishing activities undertaken by vessels flying the flag of its Member States in the high seas adjacent to Chile's exclusive economic zone, whether the Chilean Decree, which purports to apply Chile's conservation measures to swordfish on the high seas, is in breach of the Convention, and whether the "Galapagos Agreement" of 2000 was negotiated in keeping with the provisions of the Convention.

At the request of the parties, the time-limits for making preliminary objections were first extended to 1 January 2004 and then to 1 January 2006, by Orders of 15 March 2001 and 16 December 2003, respectively. The Agent for Chile, by letter of 1 December 2005, and the Agent for the European Community, by letter of 5 December 2005, requested that the time-limits for the proceedings continue to be suspended for a further two years, with both Parties maintaining their right to revive the proceedings at any time. The Special Chamber met on 28 and 29 December 2005 to consider the request of the two parties. Prior to the meeting, at a public sitting held on 28 December 2005, Judge *ad hoc* Orrego Vicuña was sworn in as a member of the Chamber. He made his solemn declaration under article 9 of the Rules of the Tribunal via a telephone link between Santiago, Chile, and Hamburg. His biography is available on the website of the Tribunal.

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Pursuant to consultations between the President of the Special Chamber and the Agents of the Parties, the Parties provided the Special Chamber with further information in support of their request. On 29 December 2005 the Special Chamber adopted the Order extending the time-limits of the proceedings until 1 January 2008. The text of the Order may be found on the Tribunal's website.

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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