

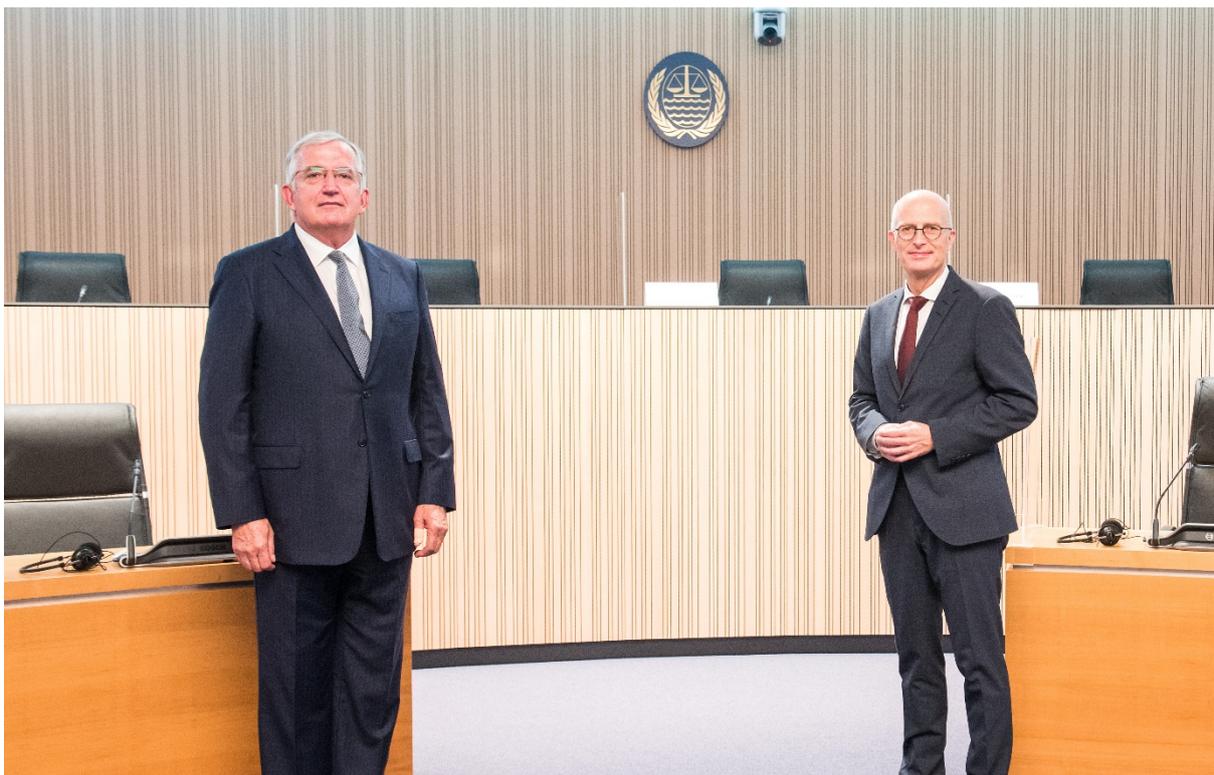


INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE TRIBUNAL

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary today at its premises in Hamburg. Judge Albert Hoffmann, President of the Tribunal, opened the events with a live address celebrating the work of the Tribunal which was broadcast on the Tribunal's website. In his address, the President gave a short review of some of the highlights of the past 25 years and his vision for the years to come. He also announced the release of a new, twenty-fifth anniversary film and the publication of an updated version of the Tribunal's *Digest of Jurisprudence* both of which are now available on the Tribunal's website.



The President welcomed to the Tribunal the First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Mr Peter Tschentscher, together with the Consul General of Croatia and Doyen of the Consular Corps, Mr Kristijan Tušek, and members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps for an in-person ceremony which was held in the Tribunal's atrium. Addressing the guests, President Hoffmann noted that "it is clear that the Tribunal, building on the foundations set out in the Convention, has, over the

first twenty-five years of its existence, applied and developed a diverse range of procedures in order to assist the States Parties to the Convention with the settlement of disputes". Looking forward the President said that "[a]s it has done in the first 25 years of its existence, the Tribunal stands ready to adapt, to remain flexible, and to assist States Parties in whatever way possible in the fulfilment of its mandate for the next quarter of a century and beyond."

The First Mayor congratulated the Tribunal on its anniversary, stating that "[t]he founding of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in 1996 was a remarkable moment in Hamburg's long tradition of maritime trade and industry, diplomacy, and jurisdiction. The Tribunal safeguards peace and justice and provides important guidance on urgent challenges that face the international community on the oceans. We are proud to be the seat of this multilateral institution and in this way to contribute to the mission of the United Nations."

The Doyen joined the First Mayor in conveying his best wishes for the first quarter century of the Tribunal, highlighting the role of the Tribunal "as an important peace-making institution", stating that "[t]hrough its jurisprudence and expertise, the Tribunal contributes greatly to legal certainty on the world's oceans".

The President's statement, the anniversary film and the updated version of the *Digest of Jurisprudence* may be found on the website of the Tribunal at <https://www.itlos.org/en/main/twenty-fifth-anniversary-of-the-tribunal/>.

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 or Mr Robert Steenkamp at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org