

Argentina – for the second time in a row - refuses to meet its obligations to pay ICSID proceeding costs; Task Force Argentina makes payment in order to avoid the suspension of the case, that advances as scheduled

Nicola Stock, President of TFA, states: "Argentina refuses once more to pay its share of arbitration costs, revealing yet again its strategy to impede the proceeding and deny justice to the bondholders that in good faith have invested in the South American Country."

The World Bank's Arbitration Tribunal announced that Argentina has refused to pay its one-half share of the latest arbitration costs in the ICSID proceeding.

Under ICSID's arbitration rules and financial regulations, ICSID periodically assesses costs to fund the ongoing proceedings, and requires equal payment from each party. An ICSID arbitration may be suspended if the parties fail to pay the necessary costs. Throughout the case, and further to the mandate authorizing it to act on bondholders' behalf, Task Force Argentina has satisfied all of the bondholders' ICSID cost obligations on a timely basis. In the face of Argentina's ongoing refusal to pay its share, TFA recently made an additional payment to ICSID to compensate for Argentina's failure and to preclude any delay in the case.

"Argentina's refusal to pay its share of the arbitration costs reveals once again its failed strategy to impede the proceeding and deny the bondholders justice," states Nicola Stock, President of TFA. "Further to its mandate to protect the bondholders' interests, TFA has made the missing payment to ICSID to defeat Argentina's delay tactic and ensure timely advancement of the case. Argentina's latest ploy did not work: the proceedings move forward with the critical merits and damages phase as scheduled."

Claimants have reserved all rights in connection with the additional payment, including the right to seek reimbursement of all costs from Argentina at the conclusion of the arbitration.

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This Press Release is issued further to the Tribunal's Confidentiality Order, which authorizes the publication of decisions and orders by the Tribunal and communications regarding the status of the proceeding. Italian bondholders participating in the ICSID arbitration may obtain information on the case by sending a request for information to info@tfargentina.it or consulting the website www.tfargentina.it. Any participating bondholders who revoke their participation in the cases against Argentina referenced above place the protection of their rights against Argentina at risk.

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