

Italian Bondholders' Case Advances at the World Bank as Tribunal Rules on Procedures for Conclusion of the Arbitration

Nicola Stock, President of TFA, states: "The Tribunal's procedural order sets the stage for the conclusion of the proceeding."

On July 7, 2012, the World Bank Tribunal presiding over the Italian bondholders' arbitration against Argentina issued a unanimous order establishing the procedures for the conclusion of the case. The Tribunal's procedural order implements, in large part, proposals addressed by the parties in briefing and at a May 9, 2012 hearing in Washington, DC. Under the order, the merits and damages parts of the case will proceed simultaneously with verification of individual bondholder claims. The parties will file written submissions on the issues beginning in September 2012, and a final hearing will be scheduled for 2013.

In separate unanimous rulings, on June 18, 2012 and June 27, 2012, the Tribunal rejected two distinct requests from Argentina, concluding, in both instances, that the demands failed to meet applicable legal standards. The Tribunal also affirmed Argentina's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of all individual Claimant information, and to use the information only in the arbitration.

The Tribunal's rulings follows repeated progress by the Italian bondholders, including the Tribunal's decision on jurisdiction in favor of the bondholders in August 2011 and, more recently, ICSID's rejection of Argentina's attempts to annul the decision on jurisdiction and to disqualify two members of the arbitral Tribunal.

"The procedural order sets the stage for the conclusion of the proceeding" says Nicola Stock, President of TFA. "Argentina's strategy of delay has been rejected once again. The bondholders move on to a final determination of their claims on the merits."

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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.

Rome, July 19, 2012