

12. Sovereignty over Pedro Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge (*Malaysia/Singapore*).

On 24 July 2003, in pursuance of a Special Agreement of 6 February 2003 (in force 9 May 2003), Malaysia and Singapore seised the Court of a dispute concerning sovereignty over Pedro Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge. In an order of 1 September 2003⁵⁷ the following time limits were set for the submission of written pleadings by both parties: memorials, 25 March 2004; counter-memorials, 25 January 2005. In an order of 1 February 2005⁵⁸ 25 November 2005 was set as the time limit for the submission of a reply by both parties.

13. Maritime Delimitation in the Black Sea (*Romania v Ukraine*)

Romania instituted proceedings against Ukraine on 16 September 2004 in a dispute concerning the establishment of a single maritime boundary between them in the Black Sea. In an order of 19 November 2004⁵⁹ the following time limits were set for the submission of written pleadings: Romania, memorial, 19 August 2005; Ukraine, counter-memorial, 19 May 2006.

IV. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. On 30 July 2004 the Court issued three new practice directions (X–XII). Practice Direction X calls for agents to attend meetings concerning procedural aspects of cases without delay; Practice Direction XI calls on parties to ensure that material presented during oral hearings on provisional measures are strictly relevant to the criteria for their being awarded; Practice Direction XII established procedures with regard to submissions made by international NGOs in connection with advisory proceedings. The Court also amended Practice Direction V, clarifying that the 4-month period in which a party may present observations and submissions on preliminary objections runs from the date on which the preliminary objections were filed.

2. Following the resignation of President Guillaume from the Court on 11 February 2005, on 15 February 2005 UN General Assembly and Security Council elected Mr Ronny Abraham (France) as a member of the Court with immediate effect, his term of office to expire on 5 February 2009.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ ICJ Rep 2003, 146.
⁵⁹ Press Communiqué No 2004/34.

⁵⁸ ICJ Press Communiqué No 2005/3.
⁶⁰ Press Communiqué No 2005/5.