

## **Recent case-law of the ICJ and its significance for International Law**

### **OC - (ILA-14093) - PULP MILLS CASE (2010): CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES**

Vasilis Kottas (Greece)<sup>1,2</sup>

1 - University of Paris 13; 2 - National Kapodistrian University of Athens

#### **Vasilis Kottas**

Political Science and Public Law graduate from National Kapodistrian University of Athens

Law student at University of Paris 13

Assistant Researcher at the Group for Environmental Issues (special consultative status to ECOSOC) of the Alumni Association of Political Science graduates

Senior Researcher at Oral History Group of National Kapodistrian University of Athens

Legal Researcher (public law, human rights) at Off Line Post

#### **Abstract**

The 2010 International Court of Justice ruling in the case of the Pulp Mills demonstrated the importance of institutional cooperation in the field of prevention and resolution of water related disputes. The 2010 ruling also strengthened international environmental law and its importance in the context of international watercourses. The ICJ took advantage of these disputes to recall the obligation to conduct an environmental impact assessment and that all states are required to conduct an environmental impact assessment before authorizing any activities that may impact an international watercourse. The Court recognized the customary nature of the obligation to conduct an environmental impact assessment. So the settlement of the disputes related to water enhances international water law and its place inside the international system.

**Palavras-chave : environmental law, international law, watercourses**