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21.8.2025

R706/2025/12270

Main hearing in the criminal case concerning the officers of the Eagle S vessel

The main hearing in the case concerning the officers of the Eagle S vessel will begin at the Helsinki District Court on Monday, August 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM. Other hearing dates are August 27, September 1–3, September 5, and September 10, starting at 9:00 AM. The main hearing will be held in room 209. The public and media representatives have the opportunity to follow the proceedings from the gallery, accessible via the stairs in front of the room. Filming in the courtroom is allowed until the session begins. Once the hearing has started, filming and all other technical recording of the proceedings are prohibited.

The charges are related to the damage caused by the ship's anchor to marine cables on Finland's economic zone on 25.12.2024. Prosecutors are demanding punishment for the ship's captain and two chief officers for aggravated criminal mischief and aggravated interference with communications.

The suspects of the offences have denied committing any crimes in the case. The issue of the jurisdiction of the Helsinki District Court also needs to be assessed, as the alleged acts occurred outside Finnish territorial waters.

The application for a summons and the suspects' written responses become public when the case has been presented in an oral hearing at the district court, unless the district court decides otherwise. Document orders are requested to be sent by email to helsinki.ko@oikeus.fi.

The matter will be resolved by a composition of three district court judges. Inquiries regarding the matter will be answered by District Court Judge Antti Ignatius (antti.ignatius@oikeus.fi).

Preliminary schedule plan for the case

25.8.2025

At 9:30, Claims, responses, and opening presentations, reviewing written evidence begins.

27.8.2025

At 9:00: The review of written evidence will continue, and representatives of the injured parties will be heard (some hearings may be partially confidential).

1.9.2025

At 9:00: Hearing of suspects

2.9., 3.9. and 5.9.2025

At 9:00: Witnesses and experts will be heard.

10.9.2025

At 9:00 closing statements

Changes to the schedule are possible. The aim is that the hearings end by 4:00 PM.