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The Hague will give “a spanking” to both Uruguay and Argentina

The outgoing Foreign Affairs Minister, Gonzalo Fernández (since yesterday Minister of Defence) assured that the verdict of the International Court of Justice of The Hague on the controversy with Argentina on the installation of Botnia, “will be conclusive and will put aside the demand raised to stop the operation” of the Finnish cellulose mill.

But Fernández also warned that the Court is also a body of “political” nature, this being the reason for the government of President Tabaré Vázquez to expect that there will be some sort of “a spanking” for both countries.

In the case of Uruguay, according to Fernández, it will be for matters “of procedure”. He thus referred to the complaint by Argentina that the (Uruguayan) government had breached the Statute of the River Uruguay when it did not give prior notice to Buenos Aires about the construction of Botnia’s plant in Fray Bentos.

Even so, the Minister assured, there will be no conviction for Uruguay with respect to the operation of Botnia’s mill. The ruling will be known in the coming days.