



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

19 December 2019

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members

*Re: Judicial Sales
Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships
2020 yCMI Essay Prize
Wrongful Arrest*

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I write to provide updates on the Judicial Sales project, Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), the 2020 yCMI Essay Prize, and extend the deadline for responding to the follow-up Questionnaire circulated by the Wrongful Arrest International Working Group in July 2019.

Attached is Ann Fenech's report on the proceedings of the second meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group VI on Judicial Sales of Ships which took place in Vienna between 18th and 22nd November 2019. The report provides details on the delegations that participated in the meeting, outlines the progress achieved on the revised draft instrument, and offers conclusions and recommendations to advance the project ahead of the next meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group IV in New York on 20 – 24 April 2020. I urge you to read the full report and, again, congratulate Ann and her team, including Henry Li, Beiping Chu, Alexander von Ziegler, Tomotaka Fujita, Frank Nolan, Peter Laurijssen, Erik Poetschke, Harmen Hoek and Manuel Alba, for their excellent work to date in promoting this important project.

I also attach for your review the report on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) that was forwarded by Tom Birch Reynardson to the International Maritime

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Organization earlier this week ahead of the LEG 107 meeting in London on 16 – 20 March 2020. MASS will remain an important and topical subject for both IMO and the CMI in the years to come, and will feature prominently in the substantive work programme of the CMI 2020 Tokyo Conference on 20 – 24 October 2020. My thanks to Tom and his IWG, in particular Henrik Ringbom, Lina Wiedenbach, Robert Veal, and our Research Fellow Sabina Dolic who has been seconded to IMO to assist with this important project.

I am taking the liberty of attaching the flyer prepared by John Hare outlining the relevant requirements, including topic and closing date, for the 2020 yCMI Essay Prize. As mentioned by John, this is the maritime world's most prestigious prize for original writing. Thus, I urge you to publicize the yCMI Essay Prize with the "young lawyers" of your respective Associations, and note the closing date for essay submissions is 30 April 2020.

I have also been asked by Aleka Sheppard and Edmund Sweetman, Chair and Rapporteur of the Wrongful Arrest IWG, to advise you the deadline for responding to the IWG's follow-up Questionnaire (originally circulated in July 2019 and attached for ease of reference) has been extended to 15 February 2020. Replies should be sent to the IWG's Co-Rapporteurs, Edmund Sweetman (esweetman@icasf.net) and Professor George Theocharidis (gt@wmu.se), with copy to Evelien Peeters (admin-antwerp@comitemaritime.org).

Last, but not least, I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued participation in the work of the Comité Maritime International, and wish you all the best for the Holiday Season, and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Christopher O. Davis