

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI DIRITTO MARITTIMO



IL PRESIDENTE

Genoa, 23 February 2022

Christopher O. Davis
President
Comité Maritime International

Dear President,

Francesco Berlingieri

the 20 February 2022 was the centenary of the birth of Francesco Berlingieri.

President of the Italian Maritime Law Association from 1982 to 2005 and subsequently acclaimed as its Honorary President, he had a leading role in the development of maritime law and in the relating unification.

He indeed contributed to its international uniformity, actively overseeing many projects of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), which laid the groundwork to so many International Conventions.

To pay him homage the CMI, which he was President from 1976 to 1992, then acclaimed as President *ad honorem*, held its Assembly in Genoa the 7 and 8 September 2017.

In addition to being a champion of the unification of maritime law, as he was defined by Patrick J.S. Griggs, President of the CMI from 1997 to 2004 and presently a President *honoris causa*, he was an outstanding maritime lawyer, acting in so many notable maritime cases and casualties, including the collision between the *Andrea Doria* and the *Stockholm* off Nantucket on 25 July 1956.

Conferred with *honoris causa* degrees in law by the Universities of Antwerp, Bologna and Athens, and with the title of Honorary Professor of International Maritime Law by the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, he received so many other awards and honours.

In recognition of his worldwide reputation, he was appointed to serve on the English Commercial Court Committee in 1977, and for his distinguished service Her Majesty the Queen made him an Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1993.

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Editor in Chief of *Il Diritto Marittimo* from 1974, a true passion for him and on which he started writing his first articles in 1946, continuing uninterruptedly until 2017, we remember him whilst thanking the International Maritime Community which met in Genoa the 19 February 2010 in the occasion of the presentation of the Essays in his honour, which were published as a special issue of *Il Diritto Marittimo* 2010. The contributions to the collection include that of Kate Lannan, Legal Officer with the UNCITRAL Secretariat in Vienna, with whom he actively participated in the Working Group sessions on the Rotterdam Rules. She described him as “consummate gentleman diplomat” for his negotiation skills and unfailing tact.

Sincerely



Giorgio Berlingieri

