



COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

16th November 2022

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members
Executive Council

Dear Friends,

This is my first letter to you following my election as President of the CMI on the 18th of October 2022

I was and still am overwhelmed by your support, by the messages, whats aps, emails and letters which I have received. To say that I feel so privileged and honoured that you have elected me to and entrusted me with this position is a major understatement. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you with a view to continuing to strengthen and underline the function, importance and very raison d'être of the Comité Maritime International - the unification of international maritime law - a subject we all feel very passionately about.

At the very outset, a very big thank you on behalf of all of us, to Chris Davis for his hard work during his Presidency and for steering our ship through the challenging covid pandemic months. This period was not for the fainthearted and we thank him for his excellent stewardship.

If any evidence was needed as to how much our members were all looking forward to meeting in person, the evidence certainly presented itself in the form of the Antwerp 125th Anniversary celebration and conference. There was such a genuine good feeling over the entire period where we were all so thankful to be able to meet in person and enjoy each other's company for a few days. Antwerp was a huge success both in terms of conference academic content as well as in terms of the social programme. Our thanks go to the CMI organising committee and the Belgium Maritime Law Association. Thank you very much indeed Belgium for a superb event which was much enjoyed by all and a fitting tribute to our 125 years.

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May I draw your attention to the fact that there are some wonderful photographs of the event. Everyone who was registered should have received the photographs from the conference organisers however they are available for viewing on our website. Many thanks to Evelien for putting these up within a few days of the conference.

In addition our 125th celebration was very well covered by Trade Winds both in their published paper of the 4th November and in several pieces in real time on line during the conference.

Moving forward

During the past three weeks since Antwerp we have already been hard at work.

Management meeting - We have already had a management meeting which reviewed the conference in Antwerp and discussed the next upcoming conference in Montreal in June. Preparations are underway by the Canadian Maritime Law Association, and we will over the next few weeks be taking the pace up a few notches so you will be hearing from me shortly on the precise dates and tentative programme.

CMI Publications and Social Media Committee - A big thank you goes to Taco van der Valk who has with Evelien's assistance been responsible for all our publications in the broadest sense of the word for a number of years. This includes the year book, website, linked in and several other media. I have no idea how Taco has managed to deal with all of these aspects effectively on his own and in fact Taco has for many months been expressing the wish that he needs to free up some of his time and for us to make alternative arrangements and he again expressed this wish during our Exco meeting in Antwerp.

As a result and in Antwerp, Taco and I got together to map a way forward. What we certainly agreed on is that the breadth of our "publications" is so extensive that the work needs to be split between a number of persons.

I am of the firm view that we are very fortunate to be living at a time when social media has provided us with some very important tools which if used effectively can assist in the outreach of the CMI and with ensuring that all the members of the CMI be they NMLAs, Titulary Members, Consultative Members and others are aware of the work of the CMI in real time. Therefore our Linked In Page and Website, must be used to their full potential. A great deal of work also goes into our Year Book and our Newsletters which Rosalie and Evelien have so diligently been looking after.

It was therefore one of my first wishes to create a *CMI Publications and Social Media Committee* and it is with great pleasure that we announce the members of this Committee.

Miso Mudric from Croatia and **Massimiliano Musi** from Italy have agreed to be Co-Chairs of this Committee and broadly speaking, Miso will be responsible for social media and Massimiliano responsible for traditional publications including the year book. **Maria Borg Barthet** from the UK and **Maja Radunovic** from Montenegro, **Lawrence Teh** and **Rosalie Balkin** and **Evelien Peters** will be members of the Committee and **Taco van der valk** has kindly agreed to be a Consultant.

You will shortly be hearing from Miso and Massimiliano. However and in order to kick start this new initiative, may I please ask all NMLAs to appoint a person within their committee who would be responsible for "social media". We would very much like

ALL NMLAs to post any news they may have on the CMI Linked In page. We would also like all members of all NMLAs to go on to our CMI Linked in page and “follow” it. This is a perfect platform and opportunity for all of us to keep in touch with each other in real time and to know what activities are being organised by the various NMLAs. Needless to say, the more of us share what appears on the CMI Linked In page the better the spread.

Outreach with NMLAs and Consultative members - Since my election I have been approached by a number of NMLAs and Consultative Members of the CMI with invitations for meetings. It is my intention to accept as many as possible and to meet as many NMLAs and Consultative members as possible with a view to exchanging views and ideas on developing further ideas and projects going forward. Over the next few weeks I will be speaking virtually at Dalian Maritime University in Beijing and in Person at the EMLO Conference in Copenhagen and at the Swedish MLA Autumn meeting in Stockholm and at the Malta Maritime Forum in Malta.

I have experienced first hand through working group VI at UNCITRAL which resulted in the approval by UNCITRAL of the draft convention on the international effects of judicial sales of ships, the important role of national maritime law associations and the extensive support which can be given by our consultative members all of which contributed substantially and significantly to the success of the draft convention. Thank you. It is my desire to continue to strengthen our relationships with our consultative members and I will be starting by meeting the Secretary General of the IMO Mr. Kitack Lim in person at the IMO in December.

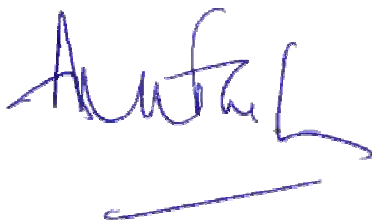
International Working Groups and Standing Committees - It is also my wish for us to focus on the existing groups and to ensure that they have all the support to be able to reach their deliverable and targets. It may well be that some have to be redesigned and other new ones created to provide for new areas of interest.

To conclude I would like to thank all the members of Exco who all work hard to bring diverse and interesting contributions to the table and who continue to oil this fascinating machine called the CMI - it is my honour and privilege to be working with all of you.

Finally, may I please ask you all to share this letter with all your members.

Best regards

Yours sincerely



Ann Fenech