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May 1, 2015

Stuart Hetherington
President, CMI
Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8,
B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium

Dear Stuart:

In response to your letter of April 8, 2015, I am pleased to provide the following report on the activities of the International Working Group on Marine Insurance during the past year.

The IWG consists of the following members:

Prof. Pierangelo Celle, Italy
Dr. Sarah Derrington, Australia
Joseph G. Grasso, Esq., USA (Chairman)
Prof. Dr. Marc Huybrechts, Belgium
Jiro Kubo, Japan
Prof. Pengnan Wang, China
Prof. Dr. Dieter Schwampe, Germany
Prof. Dr. Rhidian Thomas, United Kingdom

Following immediate past Chairman Dieter Schwampe's report of May 20, 2014 and the CMI meeting in June 2014, the IWG has continued to consider, as the CMI Executive Committee has suggested, whether to study further and/or produce written work product on the following four areas relating to mandatory insurance coverage under applicable international maritime conventions:

1. Whether there is merit in the suggestion that Guidelines be drafted to assist Governments in satisfying themselves that any insurance cover provided is in line with minimum requirements under the relevant conventions, and in relation to time limits for direct claims against insurers.
2. Whether there is merit in the suggestion that CMI propose to the IMO that the IMO's recommendations under the Bunkers Convention be extended to the other conventions.
3. Whether it would be useful to the IMO if the CMI address a Questionnaire to MLAs (as recommended in the penultimate paragraph on page 6 of Dieter's report) to ascertain the national practices and procedures of MLA countries in relation to termination of cover and
4. Whether in the context of any of the above matters CMI should propose any appropriate amendments to PSC/MoU bodies.

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The IWG has continued discussions on these issues during the last year, and we have recently had the opportunity to discuss this with Admiral Kenney (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) and Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Head, Legal Affairs Office, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) of the IMO.

We are pleased to report that the IWG has now determined to proceed with preparing draft Guidelines, as set forth in the first item above. We plan to prepare such Guidelines in continuing consultation with the IMO, and we hope to have a draft by the 2016 meeting in New York.

The IWG will also be considering the recent EU Directive on Mutual Recognition (relating to classification societies), with a view to analyzing the effects of the Directive on the marine insurance industry, and whether the IWG might produce work product to assist the industry in this regard.

If you or the Executive Committee have any questions or would like further detail, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Grasso
JGG:fes