

**COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL
CONSTITUTION**

2017

PART I - GENERAL

Article 1

Name and Object

The name of this organisation is “Comité Maritime International”, which may be abbreviated to “CMI”. The name of the organisation may be used in full or in its abbreviated form. It is a non-governmental not-for-profit international organisation established in Antwerp in 1897, the object of which is to contribute by all appropriate means and activities to the unification of maritime law in all its aspects. To this end it shall promote the establishment of national associations of maritime law and shall co-operate with other international organisations.

Article 2

Existence and Statutory Seat

The Comité Maritime International is incorporated in Belgium as an *Association internationale sans but lucratif* (AISBL) / *Internationale Vereniging zonder Winstoogmerk* (IVZW) under the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921 as later amended. It has been granted juridical personality by Royal Decree of 9 November 2003. Its statutory seat is at Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8, 2000 Antwerpen. Its statutory seat may be changed within Belgium by decision of the Executive Council.

PART II – MEMBERSHIP AND LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

Article 3

Voting Members

- (a) Subject to Article 28, the voting Members of the Comité Maritime International are national (or multinational) Associations of Maritime Law elected to membership by the Assembly, the object of which Associations must conform to that of the CMI and the membership of which must be fully open to persons (individuals or bodies having juridical personality in accordance with their national law and custom) who either are involved in maritime activities or are specialists in maritime law. Member Associations must be democratically constituted and governed, and must endeavour to present a balanced view of the interests represented in their Association.
- (b) Where in a State there is no national Association of Maritime Law in existence, and an organisation in that State applies for membership of the CMI, the Assembly may accept such organisation as a Member of the CMI if it is satisfied that the object of such organisation, or one of its objects, is the unification of maritime law in all its aspects. Whenever reference is made in this Constitution to Member Associations, it will be deemed to include any organisation admitted as a Member pursuant to this Article.
- (c) Only one organisation in each State shall be eligible for membership, unless the Assembly otherwise decides. A multinational Association is eligible for membership only if there is no Member Association in any of its constituent States.

(d) Where a national (or multinational) Member Association does not possess juridical personality according to the law of the country where it is established, the members of such Member Association who are individuals or bodies having juridical personality in accordance with their national law and custom, acting together in accordance with their national law, shall be deemed to constitute that Member Association for purposes of its membership of the CMI.

(e) National (or multinational) Member Associations of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

Article 4

Titulary Members

Individual members of Member Associations may be elected by the Assembly as Titulary Members of the Comité Maritime International upon the proposal of the Association concerned, endorsed by the Executive Council. Individual persons may also be elected by the Assembly as Titulary Members upon the proposal of the Executive Council. Titulary Membership is of an honorary nature and shall be decided having regard to the contributions of the candidates to the work of the CMI and/or to their services rendered in legal or maritime affairs in furtherance of international uniformity of maritime law or related commercial practice. Titulary Members presently or formerly belonging to an Association which is no longer a member of the CMI may remain individual Titulary Members at large pending the formation of a new Member Association in their State.

Titulary Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

Article 5

Provisional Members

Nationals of States where there is no Member Association in existence and who have demonstrated an interest in the object of the Comité Maritime International may upon the proposal of the Executive Council be elected as Provisional Members by the Assembly. A primary objective of Provisional Membership is to facilitate the organisation and establishment of new Member national or regional Associations of Maritime Law. Provisional Membership is not normally intended to be permanent, and the status of each Provisional Member will be reviewed at three-year intervals. However, individuals who have been Provisional Members for not less than five years may upon the proposal of the Executive Council be elected by the Assembly as Titulary Members, to the maximum number of three such Titulary Members from any one State. Provisional Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

Article 6

Members *Honoris Causa*

The Assembly may elect to Membership *honoris causa* any individual person who has rendered exceptional service to the Comité Maritime International or in the attainment of its object, with all of the rights and privileges of a Titulary Member. Members *honoris causa* may be designated as honorary officers of the CMI if so proposed by the Executive Council. Members *honoris causa* shall not be attributed to any Member Association or State, but shall be individual members of the CMI as a whole.

Members *honoris causa* of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

Article 7

Consultative Members

International organisations which are interested in the object of the Comité Maritime International may be elected by the Assembly as Consultative Members.

Consultative Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

Article 8

Expulsion of Members

- (a) Members may be expelled from the Comité Maritime International by reason of:
 - (i) default in payment of subscriptions;
 - (ii) conduct obstructive to the object of the CMI; or
 - (iii) conduct likely to bring the CMI or its work into disrepute.
- (b) (i) A motion to expel a Member may be made by:
 - (a) any Member Association or Titulary Member of the CMI; or
 - (b) the Executive Council.
 - (ii) Such motion shall be made in writing and shall set forth the reason(s) for the motion.
 - (iii) Such motion must be filed with the Secretary-General or Administrator, and shall be copied to the Member in question.
- (c) A motion to expel made under Article 8(b)(i)(a) shall be forwarded to the Executive Council for first consideration.
 - (i) If such motion is approved by the Executive Council, it shall be forwarded to the Assembly for consideration pursuant to Article 11(b).
 - (ii) If such motion is not approved by the Executive Council, the motion may nevertheless be laid before the Assembly by the Member Association or Titulary Member at its meeting next following the meeting of the Executive Council at which the motion was considered.
- (d) A motion to expel shall not be debated in or acted upon by the Assembly until at least ninety (90) days have elapsed since the original motion was copied to the Member in question. If less than ninety (90) days have elapsed, consideration of the motion shall be deferred to the next succeeding Assembly.
- (e) (i) The Member in question may offer a written response to the motion to expel, and/or may address the Assembly for a reasonable period in debate upon the motion.
 - (ii) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon default in payment under Article 8(a)(i), actual payment in full of all arrears currently owed by the Member in question shall constitute a complete defence to the motion, and upon acknowledgment of payment by the Treasurer the motion shall be deemed withdrawn.

- (f) (i) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon default in payment under Article 8(a)(i), expulsion shall require the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.
- (ii) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon Article 8(a)(ii) and (iii), expulsion shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

Article 9

Limitation of Liability of Members

The liability of Members for obligations of the Comité Maritime International shall be limited to the amounts of their subscriptions paid or currently due and payable to the CMI.

PART III - --ASSEMBLY

Article 10

Composition of the Assembly

The Assembly shall consist of all Members of the Comité Maritime International, the members of the Executive Council and the Immediate Past President.

As approved by the Executive Council, the President may invite Observers to attend all or parts of the meetings of the Assembly.

Article 11

Functions of the Assembly

The functions of the Assembly are:

- (a) To elect the Officers of the Comité Maritime International;
- (b) To elect Members of and to suspend or expel Members from the CMI;
- (c) To fix the amounts of subscriptions payable by Members to the CMI;
- (d) To elect auditors;
- (e) To consider and, if thought fit, approve the accounts and the budget;
- (f) To consider reports of the Executive Council and to take decisions on the activities of the CMI, including the location for the holding of meetings, and in particular, meetings of the Assembly;
- (g) To approve the convening of, and ultimately approve resolutions adopted by, International Conferences;
- (h) To adopt Rules of Procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution and make such additional Rules of Procedure as may be necessary when so doing to take account of any transitional issues that arise; and
- (i) To amend this Constitution pursuant to Article 14.

Article 12

Meetings and Quorum of the Assembly

The Assembly shall meet annually on a date and at a place decided by the Executive Council. The Assembly shall also meet at any other time, for a specified purpose, if requested by the President, by ten of its Member Associations or by the Vice-Presidents. At least six weeks' notice shall be given of such meetings.

At any meeting of the Assembly, the presence of not less than five Member Associations entitled to vote shall constitute a lawful quorum.

Article 13

Agenda and Voting of the Assembly

Matters to be dealt with by the Assembly, including election to vacant offices, shall be set out in the agenda accompanying the notice of the meeting. Decisions may be taken on matters not set out in the agenda, other than amendments to this Constitution, provided no Member Association represented in the Assembly objects to such procedure.

Members *honoris causa* and Titulary, Provisional and Consultative Members shall enjoy the rights of presence and voice, but only Member Associations in good standing shall have the right to vote.

Each Member Association present in the Assembly and entitled to vote shall have one vote. The right to vote cannot be delegated or exercised by proxy. The vote of a Member Association shall be cast by its president, or by another of its members duly authorised by that Member Association.

Unless otherwise provided in this Constitution and subject to Article 8(f)(ii) and Article 14, all decisions of the Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. However, amendments to any Rules of Procedure adopted pursuant to Article 11(h) shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

Article 14

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Executive Council or by a simple majority of Member Associations. Such proposals shall be made in writing and shall be transmitted to the Member Associations at least six weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Assembly at which the proposed amendments will be considered.

Amendments to the Constitution shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. Their effectiveness and entry into force shall be subject to Belgian law.

PART IV -OFFICERS

Article 15

Designation

The Officers of the Comité Maritime International shall be the governing body of the CMI within the meaning of the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921 as later amended and shall consist of the following members who are the directors of the CMI within the meaning of the Act:

- (a) The President,
- (b) Two Vice-Presidents,
- (c) The Secretary-General,
- (d) The Treasurer (and Head Office Director) (hereafter "The Treasurer"),
- (e) The Administrator (if an individual), and
- (f) Up to eight Executive Councillors.

Article 16

President

The President of the Comité Maritime International shall preside over the Assembly, the Executive Council, and the International Conferences convened by the CMI. He or she shall be an *ex-officio* member of any Committee, International Sub-Committee or Working Group appointed by the Executive Council.

With the assistance of the Secretary-General and the Administrator he or she shall carry out the decisions of the Assembly and of the Executive Council, supervise the work of the International Sub-Committees and Working Groups, and represent the CMI externally.

The President shall have authority to conclude and execute agreements on behalf of the CMI, and to delegate this authority to other officers of the CMI.

The President shall have authority to institute legal action in the name and on behalf of the CMI, and to delegate such authority to other officers of the CMI. In case of the impeachment of the President or other circumstances in which the President is prevented from acting and urgent measures are required, five officers together may decide to institute such legal action provided notice is given to the other members of the Executive Council. The five officers taking such decision shall not take any further measures by themselves unless required by the urgency of the situation.

In general, the duty of the President shall be to ensure the continuity and the development of the work of the CMI.

The President shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.

Article 17

Vice-Presidents

There shall be two Vice-Presidents of the Comité Maritime International, whose principal duty shall be to advise the President and the Executive Council, and whose other duties shall be assigned by the Executive Council.

The Vice-Presidents, in order of their seniority as officers of the CMI, shall substitute for the President when the President is absent or is unable to act.

Each Vice-President shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.

Article 18

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him or her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

The Secretary-General shall have particular responsibility for organisation of the intellectual and social content, and all non-administrative preparations for International Conferences, Colloquia, Symposia and Seminars convened by the Comité Maritime International.

The Secretary-General shall liaise with appropriate international bodies, especially Consultative Members of the CMI and may represent the CMI at any forum when so requested by the President or the Executive Council.

The Secretary-General shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms.

Article 19

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him/her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

In particular, the Treasurer shall:-

- (a) be responsible for the funds of the Comité Maritime International, and shall collect and disburse, or authorise disbursement of, funds as directed by the Executive Council, in accordance with protocols prescribed from time to time by the Executive Council;
- (b) maintain adequate accounting records for the CMI;
- (c) prepare financial statements for the preceding calendar year in accordance with current International Accounting Standards, and shall prepare proposed budgets for the current and next succeeding calendar years;
- (d) submit financial statements and the proposed budgets for review by the auditors and the Audit Committee appointed by the Executive Council, and following any revisions, present them for review by the Executive Council and approval by the Assembly not later than the first meeting of the Executive Council in the calendar year next following the year to which the financial statements relate.
- (e) at the request of the Executive Council, open such bank accounts and other financial facilities, such as credit cards, as are necessary to facilitate the financial operations of the CMI, and take all steps necessary to manage the finances of the CMI including arranging the deposit of funds and payment of accounts.

In his/her capacity as Head Office Director, the Treasurer shall be:

- (f) the line manager of the Administrative Assistant in Antwerp in relation to his/her office duties and in general to oversee the day by day business of the Secretariat of the CMI.
- (g) authorised to give, and be responsible for, all formal and informal notifications of amendments to the Constitution of the CMI; official notifications of the appointment and termination of officers of the Executive Council; and all other notifications required by the laws of Belgium from time to time. And in this regard, the Treasurer shall appoint and liaise with a practising Belgian lawyer to ensure compliance with all formal and legislative prerequisites in relation to the Executive Council, the Assembly, and the CMI in general.

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms.

Article 20

Administrator

The Administrator shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him or her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

The Administrator shall have particular responsibility for the formal administrative preparations for meetings of the Comité Maritime International, and to that end, shall:

- (a) give official notice of all meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Council, of International Conferences, Symposia, Colloquia and Seminars, and of all meetings of Committees, International Sub-Committees and Working Groups;
- (b) circulate the agendas, minutes and reports of such meetings;
- (c) make all necessary administrative arrangements for such meetings (such as the liaison with the host Maritime Law Association for the booking of venues and associated social activities);
- (d) take such actions, either directly or by appropriate delegation, as are necessary to give effect to administrative decisions of the Assembly, the Executive Council, and the President;
- (e) circulate such reports and/or documents as may be requested by the President, the Secretary-General or the Treasurer, or as may be approved by the Executive Council; and
- (f) keep current and ensure publication of the lists of Members pursuant to Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The Administrator may represent the CMI at any forum when so requested by the President or the Executive Council.

The Administrator may be an individual or a body having juridical personality. If a body having juridical personality, the Administrator shall be represented on the Executive Council by one natural individual person. If an individual, the Administrator may also serve, if elected to that office, as Treasurer of the CMI.

The Administrator, if an individual, shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms. If a body having juridical personality, the Administrator shall be appointed by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, and shall serve until a successor is appointed.

PART V - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Article 21

Composition, criteria for election and terms of office of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall comprise the Officers of the Comité Maritime International as described in Article 15.

Executive Councillors shall be elected by the Assembly upon individual merit, also having due regard to balanced representation of the legal systems and geographical areas of the world characterised by the Member Associations.

Each elected Executive Councillor shall be elected to his or her specific office in the Executive Council for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term to

each such office, except that (as provided in Articles 18, 19 and 20) there shall be no such limit on the number of re-elections of the Secretary-General, Administrator or Treasurer.

Article 22

Functions of the Executive Council

The functions of the Executive Council are:

- (a) To receive and review reports concerning contact with:
 - (i) The Member Associations,
 - (ii) The CMI Charitable Trust, and
 - (iii) International organisations;
- (b) To review documents and/or studies intended for:
 - (i) The Assembly,
 - (ii) The Member Associations, relating to the work of the Comité Maritime International or otherwise advising them of developments, and
 - (iii) International organisations, informing them of the views of the CMI on relevant subjects;
- (c) To initiate new work within the object of the CMI, to establish Standing Committees, International Sub-Committees and Working Groups to undertake such work, to appoint Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Rapporteurs for such bodies, and to supervise their work; reports of such Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups shall be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly as requested by the President;
- (d) To initiate and to appoint persons to carry out by other methods any particular work appropriate to further the object of the CMI; reports of such persons shall be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly as requested by the President;
- (e) To encourage and facilitate the recruitment of new members of the CMI;
- (f) To oversee the finances of the CMI and to appoint an Audit Committee;
- (g) To make interim appointments, if necessary, to the offices of Secretary-General, Treasurer and Administrator;
- (h) To nominate, for election by the Assembly, independent auditors of the annual financial statements prepared by the Treasurer and/or the accounts of the CMI, and to make interim appointments of such auditors if necessary;
- (i) To review and approve proposals for publications of the CMI;
- (j) To set the dates and places of its own meetings and, subject to Article 11, of the meetings of the Assembly, and of Seminars, Symposia and Colloquia convened by the CMI;
- (k) To propose the agenda of meetings of the Assembly and of International Conferences, and to decide its own agenda and those of Seminars, Symposia and Colloquia convened by the CMI;
- (l) To carry into effect the decisions of the Assembly;
- (m) To report to the Assembly on the work done and on the initiatives adopted.
- (n) To pay an honorarium to the Secretary-General, Administrator and Treasurer if it considers it appropriate to do so.

Article 23

Meetings and Quorum of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall meet at least twice annually; it may when necessary meet by electronic means, but shall meet in person at least once annually unless prevented by circumstances beyond its control.

The Executive Council may, however, take decisions when circumstances so require without a meeting having been convened, provided that all its members are fully informed and a majority respond affirmatively in writing.

Any actions taken without a meeting shall be ratified when the Executive Council next meets. At any meeting of the Executive Council seven members, including the President or a Vice-President and at least three Executive Councillors, shall constitute a lawful quorum. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. The President or, in his absence, the senior Vice-President in attendance shall have a casting vote where the votes are otherwise equally divided.

Article 24

Immediate Past President

The Immediate Past President of the Comité Maritime International shall have the option to attend all meetings of the Executive Council, and at his or her discretion shall advise the President and the Executive Council. His or her expenses in so attending shall be met in the same way as those of Executive Councillors.

PART VI - --NOMINATING PROCEDURES

Article 25

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee shall be established for the purpose of nominating individuals for election to any office of the Comité Maritime International.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of:

- (a) A Chair, who shall have a casting vote where the votes are otherwise equally divided, and who shall be appointed by the Executive Council;
- (b) The President and Immediate Past President of the CMI (provided that a Past President may resign from the Nominating Committee at any time upon giving written notice to the President);
- (c) Two members proposed by Member Associations through the procedures of the Nominating Committee, *mutatis mutandis*, and thereafter nominated by the Nominating Committee for election by the Assembly;
- (d) One further member appointed by the Executive Council.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, no person who is a candidate for office may serve as a member of the Nominating Committee during consideration of nominations to the office for which he or she is a candidate.

All members of the Nominating Committee other than the President and Immediate Past President (who respectively shall hold office *ex officio*) shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election for one additional term.

Article 26

Nomination Procedures

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Chair shall determine first:

- (a) whether any officers eligible for re-election are available to serve for an additional term in which event he or she shall obtain a statement from such officers as to the contributions they have made to the Executive Council or the Nominating Committee during their term(s);
- (b) whether Member Associations wish to propose candidates for possible nomination by the Nominating Committee as an Executive Councillor, or other Officer or, where applicable, to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Chair shall then notify the Member Associations and seek their views concerning the candidates for nomination. The Nominating Committee shall then make nominations taking such views into account.

Following the decisions of the Nominating Committee, the Chair shall forward its nominations to the Administrator in ample time for distribution not less than six weeks before the annual meeting of the Assembly at which nominees are to be elected.

Member Associations may make nominations for election to any office independently of the Nominating Committee, provided such nominations are forwarded to the Administrator in writing not less than 15 working days before the annual meeting of the Assembly at which nominees are to be elected. In the absence of any such nominations from Member Associations, the only nominations for election by the Assembly shall be the nominations of the Nominating Committee.

The Executive Council may make nominations to the Nominating Committee for election by the Assembly to the offices of Secretary-General, Treasurer and/or Administrator. Such nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Nominating Committee at least fourteen weeks before the annual meeting of the Assembly at which nominees are to be elected.

PART VII - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Article 27

Composition and Voting

The Comité Maritime International shall meet in International Conference at places approved by the Assembly, for the purpose of discussing and adopting resolutions upon subjects on an agenda approved by the Executive Council.

The International Conference shall be composed of all Members of the CMI and such Observers as are approved by the Executive Council.

Each Member Association which has the right to vote may be represented by its delegates present and by Titulary Members present who are members of that Association. Each Consultative Member may be represented by three delegates. Each Observer may be represented by one delegate only.

Each Member Association present and entitled to vote shall have one vote in an International Conference; no other Member and no Officer of the CMI shall have the right to vote in such capacity.

The right to vote cannot be delegated or exercised by proxy.

The resolutions of International Conferences shall be adopted by a simple majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

Clerical mistakes, or errors arising from an accidental mistake, omission or oversight, or an amendment to provide for any matter which should have been but was not dealt with at an International Conference can be corrected by a resolution at a subsequent Assembly meeting.

PART VIII - FINANCE

Article 28

Arrears of Subscriptions

A Member Association remaining in arrears of payment of its subscription for more than one year from the end of the calendar year for which the subscription is due shall be in default and shall not be entitled to vote until such default is cured.

Members liable to pay subscriptions and who remain in arrears of payment for two or more years from the end of the calendar year for which the subscription is due shall, unless the Executive Council decides otherwise, receive no publications or other rights and benefits of membership until such default is cured.

Failure to make full payment of subscriptions owed for three or more calendar years shall be sufficient cause for expulsion of the Member in default. A Member expelled by the Assembly solely for failure to make payment of subscriptions may be reinstated by vote of the Executive Council following payment of arrears, subject to ratification by the Assembly. The Assembly may authorise the President and/or Treasurer to negotiate the amount and payment of arrears with Members in default, subject to approval of any such agreement by the Executive Council.

Subscriptions received from a Member in default shall, unless otherwise provided in a negotiated and approved agreement, be applied to reduce arrears in chronological order, beginning with the earliest calendar year of default.

Article 29

Fees and Expenses

The Secretary-General, Administrator and Treasurer shall receive such *honoraria* as may be determined by the Executive Council and the auditors shall receive such fee as may be approved by the Executive Council.

Members of the Executive Council, the Immediate Past President, and Chairs of Standing Committees, Chairs and Rapporteurs of International Sub-Committees and Working Groups, when travelling on behalf of the Comité Maritime International, shall be entitled to reimbursement of travelling expenses, as directed by the President or the Executive Council.

The President or the Executive Council may also authorise the reimbursement of other expenses incurred on behalf of the Comité Maritime International.

PART IX – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 30

Liability

The Comité Maritime International shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of its Members. The liability of the CMI shall be limited to its assets.

Article 31

Dissolution and Procedure for Liquidation

The Assembly may, upon written motion received by the Administrator not less than six months prior to a regular or extraordinary meeting, vote to dissolve the Comité Maritime International. At such meeting a quorum of not less than one-half of the Member Associations entitled to vote shall be required in order to take a vote on the proposed dissolution. Dissolution shall require the affirmative vote of a three-fourths majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. Upon a vote in favour of dissolution, liquidation shall take place in accordance with the laws of Belgium. Following the discharge of all outstanding liabilities and the payment of all reasonable expenses of liquidation, the net assets of the CMI, if any, shall devolve to the CMI Charitable Trust, a registered charity established under the laws of the United Kingdom.

Article 32

Governing Law

Any issue not resolved by reference to this Constitution shall be resolved by reference to Belgian law. .

Article 33

Entry into Force

This Constitution shall enter into force on the tenth day following its publication in the *Annexes du Moniteur belge*.

COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL
RULES OF PROCEDURE
1996, as amended 2017

Rule 1
Right of Presence

In the Assembly, only Members of the Comité Maritime International as defined in Article 3(a) of the Constitution, members of the Executive Council as provided in Article 10, the Immediate Past President and Observers invited pursuant to Article 10 may be present as of right.

At International Conferences, only Members of the CMI as defined in Article 3 of the Constitution (including non-delegate members of national Member Associations), Officers of the CMI as defined in Article 15, the Immediate Past President and Observers invited pursuant to Article 27 may be present as of right.

Observers may, however, be excluded during consideration of certain items of the agenda if the President so determines.

All other persons must seek the leave of the President in order to attend any part of the proceedings.

Rule 2
Right of Voice

Only Members of the Comité Maritime International as defined in Article 3 of the Constitution, members of the Executive Council and the Immediate Past President may speak as of right; all others must seek the leave of the President before speaking. In the case of a Member Association, only a listed delegate may speak for that Member; with the leave of the President such delegate may yield the floor to another member of that Member Association for the purpose of addressing a particular and specified matter.

Rule 3
Points of Order

During the debate of any proposal or motion any Member or Officer of the Comité Maritime International having the right of voice under Rule 2 may rise to a point of order and the point of order shall immediately be ruled upon by the President. No one rising to a point of order shall speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

All rulings of the President on matters of procedure shall be final unless immediately appealed and overruled by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Rule 4
Voting

For the purpose of application of Article 13 of the Constitution, the phrase "Member Association present, entitled to vote, and voting" shall mean Member Associations whose right to vote has not been suspended pursuant to Articles 14 or 28, whose voting delegate is present at the time the vote is taken, and whose delegate casts an affirmative or negative vote. Member Associations abstaining from voting or casting an invalid vote shall be considered as not voting.

Voting shall normally be by show of hands. However, the President may order or any Member Association present and entitled to vote may request a roll-call vote, which shall be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the Member Associations as listed in the current CMI Yearbook.

If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be deemed rejected.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, all contested elections of Officers shall be decided by a secret written ballot in each category. Four ballots shall be taken if necessary. If the vote is equally divided on the fourth ballot, the election shall be decided by drawing lots.

If no nominations for an office are made in addition to the nomination(s) of the Nominating Committee pursuant to Article 26, then the candidate(s) nominated by the Nominating Committee may be declared by the President to be elected to that office by acclamation. If the Nominating Committee nominates more candidates than there are vacancies for any office, then the Assembly shall conduct an election in accordance with the procedures of this Rule.

Rule 5 Amendments to Proposals

An amendment shall be voted upon before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote, and if the amendment is carried the proposal shall then be voted upon in its amended form.

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the first vote shall be taken on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 6 Secretary and Minutes

The Secretary-General or, in his absence, an Officer of the Comité Maritime International appointed by the President, shall act as secretary and shall take note of the proceedings and prepare minutes of Assembly meetings. Minutes of the Assembly shall be published on the CMI website (where practical) in the two official languages of the CMI, English and French, and in the CMI News Letter and/or otherwise distributed in writing to Member Associations.

Rule 7 Amendment of these Rules

Amendments to these Rules of Procedure may be adopted by the Assembly. Proposed amendments must be in writing and circulated to all Member Associations at least six weeks before the annual meeting of the Assembly at which the proposed amendments will be considered.

Rule 8
Application and Prevailing Authority

These Rules shall apply not only to meetings of the Assembly and International Conferences, but shall also constitute, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Executive Council, International Sub-Committees, or any other group convened by the Comité Maritime International.

In the event of an apparent conflict between any of these Rules and any provision of the Constitution, the Constitutional provision shall prevail. Any amendment to the Constitution having an effect upon the matters covered by these Rules shall be deemed as necessary to have amended these Rules *mutatis mutandis*, pending formal amendment of the Rules of Procedure in accordance with Rule 7.

Rule 9
Carry-over of terms when electoral process is changed

Where the Assembly amends the Constitution by changing the manner in which the members of a Committee or body of the Comité Maritime International are to be elected, the Assembly may by resolution agree to permit the terms of office of members of such Committee or body, who were elected under the previous process specified under this Constitution, to be extended until the next Assembly meeting, and for such persons to carry out their functions on that Committee or body until their terms expire at the subsequent Assembly meeting.
