

2018 Report of the CMI International Working Group on Unmanned Ships

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1. The Questionnaire

We have had a good response from the National Associations to the Questionnaire and at the time of reporting have responses from the following: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Panama, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Venezuela. That is 23 countries. The IWG very much encourages more responses. These have been extremely useful in developing our understanding of National Laws.

Earlier this year Lina Wiedenbach, our Rapporteur (amongst her other jobs!) prepared a summary of the responses to the Questionnaire and this has been very well received and was submitted to the IMO MSC in May 2018. The Summary can be found on the CMI website, as can all the responses to the questionnaire. If we receive further responses to the Questionnaire we will no doubt update the Summary document which will assist the IMO in its work.

2. Work on the Conventions

The IWG has also done considerable work on the Conventions, and again presented a review of some of the most relevant Conventions to the MSC in May. The eight conventions selected for analysis by the IWG are as follows:

- SOLAS - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea;
- MARPOL-The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
- COLREGs -The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea;
- STCW -The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers;
- FAL - Facilitation of Maritime Traffic Convention;
- SAR - International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue;
- SUA - Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation;
- The International Convention on Salvage.

This work was undertaken by Henrik Ringbom, Lina Wiedenbach and Robert Veal, very considerably assisted by Mišo Mudrić, Beatriz Huarte Melgar, a group of students from Hamburg under the supervision of Professor Marian Paschke, and a

group of researchers from Tokyo under the supervision of Professor Tomotaka Fujita.

3. IMO Legal Committee

We attended the Legal Committee meeting in April and made a short presentation of the work we are doing. The Canadian delegation proposed that LEG should conduct a scoping exercise of the Conventions under its purview and this proposal was supported by CMI.

Further developments will take place at the next LEG meeting in March 2019. The IWG is involved in the preparations for that meeting.

4. IMO Maritime Safety Committee

We attended MSC 99 in May and our papers (as above) were presented. The "scoping exercise" which the MSC resolved to undertake has started and the IWG is participating in the IMO Working Group which is tackling this somewhat mammoth exercise. There are many different approaches as to how best to tackle the introduction of unmanned ships from a regulatory standpoint and a considerable degree of rationalisation will have to take place if progress is to be made.

The IWG has done a lot of work as a precursor to the scoping exercises being undertaken by the Maritime Safety and Legal Committees and we will continue to participate in the work of IMO in the scoping exercises and the approach which IMO decides upon in the future. The documents which have been prepared by the IWG have not yet been discussed in any detail by IMO but the Secretary General made clear in his opening remarks to the Legal Committee how much the work of the CMI was appreciated at IMO.

5. CMI Workshop on Unmanned Ships, Cybercrime and Marine Insurance – 9 November 2019 at 14.15

We have been working with the IWG on Cybercrime and the Sub-Committee on Marine Insurance to put on a workshop examining the interrelationship between the modern technologies of unmanned shipping, cybercrime and marine insurance. This workshop will take place after the Assembly.

6. Future Work

The IWG will be attending the MSC meeting in December and the Legal Committee Meeting in March 2019.