



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

23 December 2020

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members

Re: Season's Greetings and Update

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I write to wish you, your family and colleagues all the best for the Holiday Season, as well as a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year after what has undoubtedly been a difficult year for many around the world.

I remain optimistic the 2021 Tokyo Conference and Assembly will take place as scheduled on 26-30 September 2021, and the recently approved COVID-19 vaccines which are in the process of being distributed worldwide support this optimism. The Japanese MLA, Executive Council and Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee are refining the details of the Conference work programme and social events, and expect to finalize a decision on the Conference by the 28 March 2021 cancellation deadline set by the New Otani Hotel. Additionally, the Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee continues to hold monthly Zoom videoconferences (the last videoconference took place on 22 December 2020), with a view to ensuring the Tokyo Conference will be a memorable CMI event.

In the meantime, the work of the CMI continues and the Executive Council held a second virtual meeting during the week of 16-20 November 2020, the focus of which was principally the 2021 Tokyo Conference and proposed changes to the CMI Constitution which will likely be presented to the 2022 Assembly in Antwerp for approval (in order for the CMI to remain in compliance with the new Belgian Code on Companies and Associations).

The Judicial Sales project keeps moving forward under the guidance of UNCITRAL Working Group VI and assisted by the CMI International Working Group under the able leadership of Ann Fenech and her Co-Chair Henry Li, and the support

TEL: +1 504 566 5251 E-MAIL: codavis@bakerdonelson.com FAX: +1 504 636 3951
REGISTERED OFFICE CMI, AISBL: Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8, B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium
Enterprise n° 0867 385 381
www.comitemaritime.org

of many CMI stalwarts including, but not limited to, Alexander von Ziegler of Switzerland, Tomotaka Fujita of Japan, Jan Erik Poetscke of Germany, Manuel Alba of Spain, Peter Kragic of Croatia, Peter Laurissen of Belgium (on behalf of ICS and BIMCO), John O'Connor of Canada, and Frank Nolan of the United States (who has graciously committed to maintaining his involvement in this important project notwithstanding his retirement from the practice of law effective 31 December 2020). The above individuals participated in the virtual meeting of UNCITRAL Working Group VI last week (where substantial progress was achieved in moving the instrument to Convention status), and will likely participate in the next two meetings scheduled for 19-23 April 2021 in New York, and 22-26 November 2021 in Vienna (by which time the Convention will hopefully become a reality).

Finally, I would renew my congratulations to Stephen Girvin and Paul Myburgh, the Director and Deputy Director of the Centre for Maritime Law (CML) at the National University of Singapore, on the significant milestone reached by the CML- CMI Database of Judicial Decisions on International Conventions (over 1,000 published case summaries from a broad spectrum of civil and common law jurisdictions), and would urge all National Associations to continue contributing summaries to the Database (which is likely to remain one of the CMI's signature projects for decades to come).

Again, my best wishes for the Holiday Season, and I look forward to seeing you in Tokyo next year.

Faithfully yours,



Christopher O. Davis

cc: Executive Council