



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

4 October 2021

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members

Re: Postponement of Tokyo Conference to 2025, October 2022
Antwerp Conference, Russian MLA, New Titulary and Executive
Council Members, and Judicial Sales

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I write to confirm the decision taken by the Assembly on 30 September 2021 to postpone the Tokyo Conference from 5-8 April 2022 to 2025, as recommended by the Japanese Maritime Law Association, the Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee, and the Executive Council. As discussed during our virtual meeting, the ongoing pandemic, uneven vaccination rates around the world, uncertainty as to when the Japanese Government would relax existing travel and quarantine restrictions, and the New Otani Hotel's September 2021 cancellation deadline, convinced us all it was unrealistic to host an in-person Conference in the Spring of 2022. Fortunately, the Japanese MLA and sponsors who had committed to support the Tokyo Conference have agreed to postpone the event until 2025 (a decision endorsed by the Executive Council and the Assembly), which will undoubtedly be a memorable event.

In the meantime, we are very much looking forward to welcoming delegates in Antwerp during the third week of October 2022 to celebrate the CMI's 125th anniversary. The Antwerp event has been upgraded to a conference since the Assembly will be asked to vote on General Average guidelines and security wordings which the Standing Committee on General Average is in the process of finalizing. Additionally, the Assembly will be asked to approve certain changes to the CMI's Constitution which are required to keep us in compliance with the new Belgian Companies Act. Further details on the work programme and social events for the

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Antwerp Conference will be provided in due course. In the meantime, the Antwerp Conference Organizing Committee is scheduled to hold a video conference on 5 October 2021, and will be meeting virtually on a monthly basis to finalize the Conference arrangements.

I take this opportunity to offer a warm welcome to the Russian Maritime Law Association (RUMLA) which was formally approved for CMI membership by the Assembly on 30 September 2021. We very much look forward to working with RUMLA on issues of mutual interest, and the participation of RUMLA's members in the work of the CMI going forward.

Likewise, congratulations are in order to the eight new Titulary Members whose applications were approved by the Assembly last week:

Prof. Manuel Alba (Spanish MLA)
Mr. Jesus Casas (Spanish MLA)
Mrs. Mercedes Duch (Spanish MLA)
Mr. Javier Portales (Spanish MLA)
Ms. Barbara Holland (US MLA)
Mr. Jan-Erik Pötschke (German MLA)
Mr. Dragan Bolanca (Croatian MLA)
Mrs. Dorotea Coric (Croatian MLA)

We also welcome two new members to the Executive Council, Paula Backden of the Swedish MLA and Petar Kragic of the Croatian MLA, and offer our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Luc Grellet and Taco van der Valk who completed their second term as Executive Councillors, but will continue to contribute to the work of the CMI as members of Standing Committees and/or International Working Groups.

Finally, I am attaching for your review and further action the latest Annotated Fourth Revision of the Beijing Draft (which is no longer marked as "Advanced Copy"), and the revised CMI meeting notes dated 1 October 2021, which I received from Ann Fenech earlier today and have been prepared to assist you and your respective Government representatives ahead of the 39th Session of UNCITRAL Working Group VI on Judicial Sales scheduled for 18-23 October 2021.

On behalf of the Executive Council, thank you for your continued participation in the work of the CMI, and we very much look forward to seeing you in person next year in Antwerp.

Faithfully yours,



Christopher O. Davis

cc: Executive Committee