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**CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF PROMOTING UNIFORMITY OF MARITIME LAW**

**CMI ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE**

**ANTWERP, BELGIUM**

**18 - 21 OCTOBER 2022**

The 2022 Assembly of the Comité Maritime International will take place in Antwerp, Belgium on the afternoon of Friday, 21 October 2022, preceded by a two-day conference organized jointly by the CMI and the Belgian MLA. Wednesday, 19 October 2022, has been set aside for meetings of the CMI's International Working Groups and Standing Committees, which will be open to all delegates and where the recent work of the CMI will be reviewed and showcased. The Executive Council will hold its first non-virtual meeting in three years on Tuesday, 18 October 2022, and after the meeting ExCo members will have the pleasure of inviting delegates and their partners to tour CMI headquarters and attend a pre-conference champagne and oyster reception.

A plenary to approve the new General Average Guidelines (and security wordings) has been scheduled for Friday morning, 21 October 2022, and the Conference work programme includes the Berlingieri Lecture delivered by Past President Patrick Griggs, as well as sessions on Judicial Sale of Ships, MASS, Polar Shipping, Fair Treatment of Seafarers, Electronic Transport Documents, Maritime Law Issues in Courts, Unified Interpretation of Test for Breaking Limitation, presentation of the yCMI and IMLI Essay Prize Winners, and a yCMI programme.

As you well know, the tradition and historical format of holding a full international conference only once every four years, with seminars and colloquia in intermediate years coinciding with our annual Assembly, was upended by the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated the cancellation of our Conference in Tokyo in 2020 and, again, in 2021 (the Tokyo Conference is now scheduled for 2025). Thus, the Antwerp Assembly and Conference will mark the first time we meet in person since our 2019 meeting in Mexico City. More importantly, the Antwerp meeting will coincide with the CMI's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, thus, promises to be a memorable celebration and event.

In addition to being the birthplace and headquarters of the CMI, Antwerp is a cosmopolitan city with a bustling international port and combines the charms of its historic past with its exciting and cutting-edge present. From baroque architecture, including its cathedral which has been designated a UNESCO world heritage site (and houses four Rubens paintings), to the avant-



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garde Antwerp Port Authority building designed by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, Antwerp has it all, including fascinating museums, trendy boutiques, and world-class restaurants.

The venue for the Conference will be the Flanders Meeting & Convention Center, also known as “a room with a Zoo,” which is conveniently located in the heart of the city in the award-winning 19th Century Antwerp Zoo. We have reserved a block of rooms at several hotels within walking distance of the Flanders Meeting & Convention Center, where both the Assembly and Conference work programme will take place.

The welcome reception for delegates and their partners will take place on Wednesday evening, 19 October 2022, with the traditional gala dinner on Thursday, 20 October 2022, and the farewell reception on Friday, 21 October 2022. Additionally, post-event tours to fascinating and historic cities such as Bruges and Ghent will be available for those who wish to extend their stay in Antwerp and explore the magical wonders Belgium has to offer.

We have set up an event website at [www.cmi2022antwerp.org](http://www.cmi2022antwerp.org) where you will find the current programme with details of the sessions and speakers. The site will be expanded and updated as more detail becomes available, and a link will be included which will enable you to book one of the hotels we have reserved. Beginning on or about 20 April 2022, you will be able to register for the Conference via the CMI event site for yourself as Delegate and for your partner as an Accompanying Person. Please note “early bird” registration will close at midnight GMT on 30 June 2022.

Finally, details of the sponsorship opportunities and packages available for the Conference can be found at <https://www.cmi2022antwerp.org/partnership> or obtained from the Belgian MLA and the event organizers.

Antwerp and Belgium are awaiting to charm and enchant you, and we hope to see you at the Assembly and Conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Antwerp and celebrating the CMI’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Christopher O. Davis  
President, CMI

Rosalie Balkin  
Secretary-General, CMI

Vincent Franssen  
President, Belgian MLA