



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

12 May 2022

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members

Re: *30 June 2022 Correspondence Assembly*

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I am attaching for your review (and further action) the 12 May 2022 Notice of Correspondence Assembly Meeting to be Held on 30 June 2022, the Agenda and Voting Form for the Meeting, and Documentation referenced in the Notice and Agenda (with the caveat you may be receiving separately the Minutes of the 30 September 2022 Virtual Assembly from our Secretary General, Rosalie Balkin, and the Report of the Nominating Committee from our Administrator, Lawrence Teh). Please note the Voting Form must be returned signed, scanned or photographed, and returned by email to admin-antwerp@comitemaritime.org with copy to rosaliebalkin1@gmail.com and codavis@bakerdonelson.com by Friday, 24 June 2022.

As you may recall, Belgian law requires that the Assembly approve the 2021 Accounts by no later than 30 June 2022 (i.e., six months after conclusion of the account year). Hence, the need to schedule a Correspondence Assembly (primarily to approve the 2021 Accounts) on 30 June 2022, ahead of our in-person Assembly which will take place in Antwerp on 21 October 2022.

My thanks to our Treasurer, Peter Verstuyft, and the Chair of our Audit Committee, Mans Jacobsson, for their assistance in preparing the documents. Please note the 2021 Accounts documentation includes the Treasurer's Report, Notes to the Financial Statements, External Auditor's Report, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement as of 31 December 2021, Income Expenditure, and Audit Committee's Report (all attached for your review). I am pleased to report the finalized 2021 Accounts reflect a surplus of €78,209 (slightly above the €61,902 surplus achieved in 2020), which is largely due to the cancellation of CMI events in 2021 as a result of the COVID pandemic.

The 2022 Budget is also attached for your review and reflects our Treasurer's (and Executive Council's) best estimate of what the numbers will ultimately be, and same are reviewed and updated from time to time (as was done during our most recent virtual Executive Council meeting which took place via Microsoft Teams on 29 and 30 March 2022). While the 2022 Budget tentatively budgets a deficit of €26,100 for the current account year, we are optimistic a good turnout for the 18-21 October 2022 Antwerp Conference will result in a surplus for the year. I note parenthetically the Welcome Letter for the Antwerp Conference was sent to you on 19 April 2022, and online registration for the Conference is now open and can be accessed via the following link, <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=675950&>.

Please note the Agenda and Voting Form also requests your approval of the 30 September 2021 Virtual Assembly Minutes (largely a ministerial formality given the excellent work of our Secretary General, Rosalie Balkin, and Administrator, Lawrence Teh, in preparing the Minutes), and approval of the re-election of Giorgio Berlingieri as a member of the Nominating Committee for a second period of three years retroactively with effect from 30 September 2021 (as outlined in the Report of the Nominating Committee which you are receiving separately as part of the Documentation for the 30 June 2022 Correspondence Assembly).

Finally, I thought it appropriate to advise you it is my intention to step down as President at the conclusion of the Assembly in Antwerp on 21 October 2022, which decision I have communicated to the Executive Council and Nominating Committee. Thus, you will be hearing shortly from the Nominating Committee regarding the vacancies on the Executive Council (and Nominating Committee) which will need to be filled and elected during the Assembly in Antwerp, in accordance with the two-step consultation and nomination process mandated by the CMI Constitution. Needless to say, serving on the Executive Council, as well as Vice President and President of the CMI, has been the greatest honour of my professional career. However, I am of the firm view one term of three years is appropriate for the President, and only agreed to serve one additional year in that capacity due to the ongoing pandemic (which, thankfully, appears to be finally abating). I also note there is precedent for a President stepping down after serving one year into the second term (as was done by our esteemed Past President Patrick Griggs who will be delivering the Berlingieri Lecture in Antwerp), and I will do my best to continue contributing to (and furthering the goals of) the CMI as Immediate Past President.

I very much look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating 125 years of promoting uniformity of maritime law during the CMI's upcoming Conference in Antwerp on 18-21 October 2022.

Faithfully yours,



Christopher O. Davis

cc: Executive Council