COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

8th May 2026

Consultative Members

Dear Consultative Members of the CMI,

When I was elected President of the CMI in October 2022, I set out as one of my goals closer collaboration with our Consultative Members.

As a marine litigation lawyer for over 40 years, I have always appreciated enormously the role which the industry plays in the development of the maritime laws of individual countries and the role they should play in the formulation of international conventions which is the primary focus of the Comité – the unification of international maritime law – through conventions, treaties, guidelines.

I am delighted that over the past few years, there has been a tremendous amount of co-operation between the Comité and its consultative members on a number of levels. I have met with most of you personally and we have seen a marked increase in the participation of consultative members at our events as delegates and as speakers as well as collaboration and co-operation at international fora debating issues which are hugely relevant to maritime law and the space in which our consultative members operate.

However the reason for my email is a financial one.

The CMI's income is dependent on the subscriptions paid by the national maritime law associations members of the CMI. The subscriptions paid by these members had remained the same since 2009. In the meantime the expenses of the CMI, particularly the administrative expenses, have since then risen considerably leading to the situation where over the past years we have been eating into our reserves. Whilst its reserves remain healthy, this is not a sustainable situation.

MOB: +356 9947 4536 E-MAIL: ann.fenech@fenechlaw.com
REGISTERED OFFICE CMI, AISBL: Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8, B-2000, Antwerp, Belgium
Enterprise nº 0867 385 381
www.comitemaritime.org

Therefore the Executive Council of the CMI proposed an increase in membership fees payable by national maritime law associations which was approved by the General Assembly in October 2024.

It was not the decision of either the Executive Council or the General Assembly to ask Consultative Members to start to pay a membership fee now, however it was decided that it may be opportune to invite our Consultative Members to consider making a voluntary contribution of Euro 1,000 per annum.

As you are all aware, the contribution which the CMI has made, continues to make and has every intention of making to the development of international maritime law is significant. The latest jewel in the CMI crown is the coming into force of the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships. This Convention is a Convention which started off life as a CMI draft and in 6 short years we went from a CMI draft to its deliberation at UNCITRAL, to its adoption by the General Assembly of the UN, to a signing ceremony in Beijing, to another signing ceremony in Malta, to full support of the European Union, to its coming into force on the 17th February 2026. I have been informed that this is probably a record.

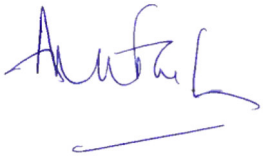
This was possible because of an extraordinary amount of hard work and co-ordination, participation at the UN meetings and other fora, publications and efforts by numerous CMI persons together with the support of so many of you. None of these were paid a cent for the hundreds of hours they dedicated. We are very much indebted to them and to their firms for supporting them, but the CMI itself also had to cover attendances at the various meetings, flights and hotel nights from its own coffers.

The CMI is currently working on several important projects - decarbonisation, the liability for damages caused by the carriage of alternative fuels as bunkers, mobile offshore renewable units, fraudulent registrations, the fair treatment of seafarers, collisions, MASS, and a host of others all of which may eventually require CMI financial support.

I would therefore like to extend this invitation to your associations to consider making a voluntary contribution of Euro 1,000 to the CMI which will help in ensuring that we can continue to contribute in a meaningful way to the unification of international maritime law. Your contribution can be paid into the CMI's bank account BE52 6455 0780 2109 (BIC: JVBABE22), indicating *"Consultative Member Contribution + your name"*. We are also working on providing the possibility to pay the voluntary contribution by credit card or by PayPal via our website.

We thank you in advance for your support to the CMI.

Best regards,



Ann Fenech - President

Frank Stevens - Treasurer