

**COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL**  
**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**  
**2022**

**PART I - GENERAL**

**Article 1**

**Name and Object**

The name of this organisation is “Comité Maritime International”, which may be abbreviated to “CMI”. The name of the organisation may be used in full or in its abbreviated form. It is a non-governmental not-for-profit international organisation established in Antwerp in 1897 for an unlimited duration, the object of which is to contribute by all appropriate means and activities to the unification of maritime law in all its aspects. To this end it shall promote the establishment of national associations of maritime law and shall co-operate with other international organisations. The CMI shall promote research, education and discussion in the field of maritime law. It can achieve its goal through the following activities:

- organising of seminars and conferences as a platform for academic discussions;
- encouraging the cooperation regarding research and education;
- organising new activities of research and education;
- providing - upon request or on its own initiative – advice and recommendations to intergovernmental organisations, other international bodies or institutions, governments, parliaments, political parties, judicial authorities, legal professions, etc.
- publishing articles, books, reviews, reports, brochures and other informative documents related to the activities of the CMI, both printed and electronical versions.

The CMI can in general develop any and all activities that contribute directly or indirectly to the achievement of the aforementioned non-profitable goals, including commercial and profitable activities within the limits of what is allowed by law and of which the proceeds shall be destined at all times for the achievement of the non-profitable goals of the CMI. The CMI can amongst others cooperate with, grant loans to, invest in the capital of, or in whatever way, participate directly or indirectly in other legal incorporated bodies, associations and companies of private or public nature, governed by Belgian or foreign law.

- Establishing committees, international subcommittees, working groups, divisions or establishments within the CMI.

## **Article 2**

### **Existence and Statutory Seat**

The CMI is incorporated in Belgium as an *Association internationale sans but lucratif* (AISBL) / *Internationale Vereniging zonder Winstoogmerk* (IVZW) under the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921 as later amended. It has been granted juridical personality by Royal Decree of 9 November 2003. It shall at all times consist of at least 2 Member Associations. Its statutory seat is located in the Flemish Region (Vlaams Gewest). Within the Flemish Region (Vlaams Gewest), the statutory seat can be changed by decision of the Executive Council without amending the Articles of association. The actual statutory seat is located at Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8, 2000 Antwerp. Every change of the statutory seat shall be published in the annexes of the Belgian State Gazette.

## **PART II –MEMBERSHIP AND LIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

### **Article 3**

#### **Member Associations**

- (a) Subject to Article 28, the voting Members of the CMI are national (or multinational) Associations of Maritime Law elected to membership by the General Assembly, further “Member Associations”, the object of which Associations must conform to that of the CMI and the membership of which must be fully open to persons (individuals or bodies having juridical personality in accordance with their national law and custom) who either are involved in maritime activities or are specialists in maritime law. Member Associations must be democratically constituted and governed, and must endeavour to present a balanced view of the interests represented in their Association.
- (b) Where in a State there is no national Association of Maritime Law in existence, and an organisation in that State applies for membership of the CMI, the General Assembly may accept such organisation as a Member of the CMI if it is satisfied that the object of such organisation, or one of its objects, is the unification of maritime law in all its aspects. Whenever reference is made in these Articles of association to Member Associations, it will be deemed to include any organisation admitted as a Member pursuant to this Article.
- (c) Only one organisation in each State shall be eligible for membership, unless the General Assembly otherwise decides. A multinational Association is eligible for membership only if there is no Member Association in any of its constituent States.
- (d) Where a Member Association does not possess juridical personality according to the law of the country where it is established, the members of such Member Association who are individuals or bodies having juridical personality in accordance with their national law and custom, acting together in accordance with their national law, shall be deemed to constitute that Member Association for purposes of its membership of the CMI.
- (e) Member Associations of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

(f) Member Associations are entitled to attend and vote, each with only one vote, at General Assemblies.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Titulary Members**

Individual members of Member Associations may be elected by the General Assembly as Titulary Members of the CMI upon the proposal of the Association concerned, endorsed by the Executive Council. Individual persons may also be elected by the General Assembly as Titulary Members upon the proposal of the Executive Council. Titulary Membership is of an honorary nature and shall be decided having regard to the contributions of the candidates to the work of the CMI and/or to their services rendered in legal or maritime affairs in furtherance of international uniformity of maritime law or related commercial practice. Titulary Members presently or formerly belonging to an Association which is no longer a member of the CMI may remain individual Titulary Members at large pending the formation of a new Member Association in their State.

Titulary Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Provisional Members**

Nationals of States where there is no Member Association in existence and who have demonstrated an interest in the object of the CMI may upon the proposal of the Executive Council be elected as Provisional Members by the General Assembly. A primary objective of Provisional Membership is to facilitate the organisation and establishment of new Member national or regional Associations of Maritime Law. Provisional Membership is not normally intended to be permanent, and the status of each Provisional Member will be reviewed at three-year intervals. However, individuals who have been Provisional Members for not less than five years may upon the proposal of the Executive Council be elected by the General Assembly as Titulary Members, to the maximum number of three such Titulary Members from any one State where there is no Member Association. Provisional Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Members *Honoris Causa***

The General Assembly may elect to Membership *honoris causa* any individual person who has rendered exceptional service to the CMI or in the attainment of its object, with all of the rights and privileges of a Titulary Member. Members *honoris causa* shall not be attributed to any Member Association or State, but shall be individual members of the CMI as a whole.

Members *honoris causa* of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

## **Article 7**

### **Consultative Members**

International organisations which are interested in the object of the CMI may be elected by the General Assembly as Consultative Members. Consultative Members of the CMI are identified in a list published on the CMI Website or as may otherwise be determined by the Executive Council.

## **Article 8**

### **Expulsion of Members**

- (a) Members may be expelled from the CMI by reason of:
  - (i) default in payment of subscriptions;
  - (ii) conduct obstructive to the object of the CMI; or
  - (iii) conduct likely to bring the CMI or its work into disrepute.
- (b) (i) A motion to expel a Member may be made by:
  - (a) any Member Association or Titulary Member of the CMI; or
  - (b) the Executive Council.
  - (ii) Such motion shall be made in writing and shall set forth the reason(s) for the motion.
  - (iii) Such motion must be filed with the Secretary-General or Administrator, and shall be copied to the Member in question.
- (c) A motion to expel made under Article 8(b)(i)(a) shall be forwarded to the Executive Council for first consideration.
  - (i) If such motion is approved by the Executive Council, it shall be forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration pursuant to Article 11(b).
  - (ii) If such motion is not approved by the Executive Council, the motion may nevertheless be laid before the General Assembly by the Member Association or Titulary Member at its meeting next following the meeting of the Executive Council at which the motion was considered.
- (d) A motion to expel shall not be debated in or acted upon by the General Assembly until at least ninety (90) days have elapsed since the original motion was copied to the Member in question. If less than ninety (90) days have elapsed, consideration of the motion shall be deferred to the next succeeding General Assembly.
- (e) (i) The Member in question may offer a written response to the motion to expel, and/or may address the General Assembly for a reasonable period in debate upon the motion.
  - (ii) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon default in payment under Article 8(a)(i), actual payment in full of all arrears currently owed by the Member in question shall constitute a complete defence to the motion, and upon acknowledgment of payment by the Treasurer the motion shall be deemed withdrawn.

- (f) (i) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon default in payment under Article 8(a)(i), expulsion shall require the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.
- (ii) In the case of a motion to expel which is based upon Article 8(a)(ii) and (iii), expulsion shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

## **Article 9**

### **Limitation of Liability of Members**

The liability of Members for obligations of the CMI shall be limited to the amounts of their subscriptions paid or currently due and payable to the CMI.

## **PART III - GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 10**

#### **Composition of the General Assembly**

The General Assembly shall consist of the Member Associations, the members of the Executive Council and the Immediate Past President.

The President shall preside all General Assemblies, and shall be accompanied by the persons designated by the Executive Council to assist in the efficient handling of the business before the General Assembly.

When approved by the Executive Council, the President may invite other classes of Members and Observers to attend all or parts of the meetings, including the General Assembly. However, the other classes of Members or Observers shall not be part of the composition of the General Assembly.

### **Article 11**

#### **Functions of the General Assembly**

The functions of the General Assembly are:

- (a) To elect the Councillors of the CMI;
- (b) To elect Members of and to suspend or expel Members from the CMI;
- (c) To fix the amounts of subscriptions payable by Members to the CMI;
- (d) To elect auditors;
- (e) To consider and, if thought fit, approve the accounts and the budget;
- (f) To consider reports of the Executive Council and to take decisions on the activities of the CMI, including the location for the holding of meetings, and in particular, meetings of the General Assembly;
- (g) To approve the convening of, and ultimately approve resolutions adopted by, International Conferences;

- (h) To adopt Rules of Procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this Articles of association and make such additional Rules of Procedure as may be necessary when so doing to take account of any transitional issues that arise; and
- (i) To amend the Articles of association pursuant to Article 14.

## **Article 12**

### **Meetings and Quorum of the General Assembly**

The annual General Assembly shall meet at a time and place determined by the Executive Council in conformity with the requirements of Belgian law. A General Assembly can also be organised by means of a telephone or video conference or via any other means of telecommunication that guarantees an effective and simultaneous deliberation between all the participants. The General Assembly shall also meet at any other time, with a fixed agenda, if requested by the President, by ten of its Member Associations or by the Vice-Presidents. At least six weeks' notice shall be given of such meetings.

Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in the present Articles of association, any General Assembly shall be validly constituted if at least five Member Associations are present.

## **Article 13**

### **Agenda and Voting of the General Assembly**

Matters to be dealt with by the General Assembly, including election to vacant offices, shall be set out in the agenda accompanying the notice of the meeting. Decisions may be taken on matters not set out in the agenda, other than amendments to the Articles of association, provided no Member Association represented in the General Assembly objects to such procedure.

Members *honoris causa* and Titulary, Provisional and Consultative Members shall enjoy the rights of presence and voice, but only Member Associations who are not in arrears of payment of their subscription, shall have the right to vote.

Each Member Association present at the General Assembly and entitled to vote shall have one vote. The vote of a Member Association shall be cast by its President, or by another of its members duly authorised by that Member Association.

The right to vote by proxy is excluded.

Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of association and subject to Article 8(f)(ii) and Article 14, all decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. However, amendments to any Rules of Procedure adopted pursuant to Article 11(h) shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

If it is provided in the convocation to the General Assembly, the members can be granted the right to vote via electronic way or in writing on all or some of the matters set out in the agenda, prior to the time that the General Assembly is held. These prior votes will be taken into account for the

calculation of the quorum and the majority required for the relevant General Assembly. If the convocation provides that the right to vote via electronic way or in writing prior to the General Assembly only applies for a limited number of matters on the agenda, the prior votes shall only be taken into account for the calculation of the quorum and the majority required for these limited number of matters. The CMI shall verify the identity and the right to vote of members who make use of the right of prior voting. Those members shall act in accordance with the identification procedure imposed by the Executive Council.

#### **Article 14**

##### **Amendments to the Articles of association**

Amendments to the Articles of association shall be made in writing and shall be transmitted to all National Associations at least six weeks prior to the meeting of the General Assembly at which the proposed amendments will be considered.

Amendments to the Articles of association shall require the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. Their effectiveness and entry into force shall be subject to Belgian law.

#### **PART IV - COUNCILLORS**

#### **Article 15**

##### **Designation**

The Executive Council is the governing body of the CMI. It shall consist of a maximum of 14 Councillors who shall be elected by the General Assembly. The Executive Council shall include the following:

- (a) The President,
- (b) Two Vice-Presidents,
- (c) The Secretary-General,
- (d) The Treasurer (and Head Office Councillor) (hereafter "The Treasurer"),
- (e) The Administrator (if an individual), and
- (f) Up to eight Executive Councillors.

#### **Article 16**

##### **President**

The President of the CMI shall preside over the General Assembly, the Executive Council, and the International Conferences convened by the CMI. He or she shall be an *ex-officio* member of any Committee, International Sub-Committee or Working Group appointed by the Executive Council.

With the assistance of the Secretary-General and the Administrator he or she shall carry out the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Executive Council, supervise the work of the International Sub-Committees and Working Groups, and represent the CMI externally.

The President shall have authority to conclude and execute agreements on behalf of the CMI, and to delegate this authority to other Councillors of the CMI.

The President shall have authority to institute legal action in the name and on behalf of the CMI, and to delegate such authority to other Councillors of the CMI. In case of the impeachment of the President or other circumstances in which the President is prevented from acting and urgent measures are required, five Councillors together may decide to institute such legal action provided notice is given to the other members of the Executive Council. The five Councillors taking such decision shall not take any further measures by themselves unless required by the urgency of the situation.

In general, the duty of the President shall be to ensure the continuity and the development of the work of the CMI.

The President shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.

#### **Article 17**

##### **Vice-Presidents**

There shall be two Vice-Presidents of the CMI, whose principal duty shall be to advise the President and the Executive Council, and whose other duties shall be assigned by the Executive Council.

The Vice-Presidents, in order of their seniority as Councillors of the CMI, shall substitute for the President when the President is absent or is unable to act.

Each Vice-President shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term.

#### **Article 18**

##### **Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him or her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

The Secretary-General shall have particular responsibility for organisation of the intellectual and social content, and all non-administrative preparations for International Conferences, Colloquia, Symposia and Seminars convened by the CMI.

The Secretary-General shall liaise with appropriate international bodies, especially Consultative Members of the CMI and may represent the CMI at any forum when so requested by the President or the Executive Council.

The Secretary-General shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms.



## **Article 19**

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him/her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

In particular, the Treasurer shall:-

- (a) be responsible for the funds of the CMI, and shall collect and disburse, or authorise disbursement of, funds as directed by the Executive Council, in accordance with protocols prescribed from time to time by the Executive Council;
- (b) maintain adequate accounting records for the CMI;
- (c) prepare the annual accounts for the preceding accounting year in accordance with current Accounting Standards imposed by Belgian law, and shall prepare proposed budgets for the current and next succeeding accounting years;
- (d) submit the draft annual accounts and the proposed budgets for review by the auditors and the Audit Committee appointed by the Executive Council, and following any revisions, present them for review by the Executive Council, in view of their approval by the General Assembly in conformity with the requirements of Belgian law.
- (e) at the request of the Executive Council, open such bank accounts and other financial facilities, such as credit cards, as are necessary to facilitate the financial operations of the CMI, and take all steps necessary to manage the finances of the CMI including arranging the deposit of funds and payment of accounts.

In his/her capacity as Head Office Councillor, the Treasurer shall be:

- (f) the line manager of the Administrative Assistant in Antwerp in relation to his/her office duties and in general to oversee the day by day business of the Secretariat of the CMI.
- (g) authorised to give, and be responsible for, all formal and informal notifications of amendments to the Articles of association of the CMI; official notifications of the appointment and termination of Councillors of the Executive Council; and all other notifications required by the laws of Belgium from time to time. And in this regard, the Treasurer shall appoint and liaise with a practising Belgian lawyer to ensure compliance with all formal and legislative prerequisites in relation to the Executive Council, the General Assembly, and the CMI in general.

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms.

## **Article 20**

### **Administrator**

The Administrator shall undertake and be responsible for the tasks and duties assigned to him or her from time to time by the President or the Executive Council.

The Administrator shall have particular responsibility for the formal administrative preparations for meetings of the CMI, and to that end, shall:

- (a) give official notice of all meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Council, of International Conferences, Symposia, Colloquia and Seminars, and of all meetings of Committees, International Sub-Committees and Working Groups;
- (b) circulate the agendas, minutes and reports of such meetings;
- (c) make all necessary administrative arrangements for such meetings (such as the liaison with the host Maritime Law Association for the booking of venues and associated social activities);
- (d) take such actions, either directly or by appropriate delegation, as are necessary to give effect to administrative decisions of the General Assembly, the Executive Council, and the President;
- (e) circulate such reports and/or documents as may be requested by the President, the Secretary-General or the Treasurer, or as may be approved by the Executive Council; and
- (f) keep current and ensure publication of the lists of Members pursuant to Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The Administrator may represent the CMI at any forum when so requested by the President or the Executive Council.

The Administrator may be an individual or a body having juridical personality. If a body having juridical personality, the Administrator shall be represented on the Executive Council by one natural individual person. If an individual, the Administrator may also serve, if elected to that office, as Treasurer of the CMI.

The Administrator, if an individual, shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election without limitation upon the number of terms. If a body having juridical personality, the Administrator shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, and shall serve until a successor is appointed.

## PART V - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### Article 21

#### **Composition, criteria for election and terms of office of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council shall comprise the Councillors of the CMI as described in Article 15.

The Executive Councillors shall be elected by the General Assembly upon individual merit, also having due regard to balanced representation of the legal systems and geographical areas of the world characterised by the Member Associations.

Each elected Councillor shall be elected to his or her specific office in the Executive Council for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term to each such office, except that (as provided in Articles 18, 19 and 20) there shall be no such limit on the number of re-elections of the Secretary-General, Administrator or Treasurer.

## **Article 22**

### **Functions of the Executive Council**

The functions of the Executive Council are:

- (a) To receive and review reports concerning contact with:
  - (i) The Member Associations,
  - (ii) The CMI Charitable Trust, and
  - (iii) International organisations;
- (b) To review documents and/or studies intended for:
  - (i) The General Assembly,
  - (ii) The Member Associations, relating to the work of the CMI or otherwise advising them of developments, and
  - (iii) International organisations, informing them of the views of the CMI on relevant subjects;
- (c) To initiate new work within the object of the CMI, to establish Standing Committees, International Sub-Committees and Working Groups to undertake such work, to appoint Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Rapporteurs for such bodies, and to supervise their work; reports of such Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups shall be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the General Assembly as requested by the President;
- (d) To initiate and to appoint persons to carry out by other methods any particular work appropriate to further achieve the object of the CMI; reports of such persons shall be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the General Assembly as requested by the President;
- (e) To encourage and facilitate the recruitment of new members of the CMI;
- (f) To oversee the finances of the CMI and to appoint an Audit Committee;
- (g) To make interim appointments, if necessary, to the offices of Secretary-General, Treasurer and Administrator;
- (h) To nominate, for election by the General Assembly, an independent auditor for the annual financial statements prepared by the Treasurer and/or the accounts of the CMI, and to make interim appointments of an accountant or an auditor if necessary;
  - (i) To review and approve proposals for publications of the CMI;
  - (j) To set the dates and places of its own meetings and, subject to Article 11, of the meetings of the General Assembly, and of Seminars, Symposia and Colloquia convened by the CMI;
  - (k) To propose the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly and of International Conferences, and to decide its own agenda and those of Seminars, Symposia and Colloquia convened by the CMI;
  - (l) To carry into effect the decisions of the General Assembly;
- (m) To report to the General Assembly on the work done and on the initiatives adopted.
- (n) To pay an honorarium to the Secretary-General, Administrator and Treasurer if it considers it appropriate to do so.

### **Article 23**

#### **Meetings and Quorum of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council shall meet at least twice annually; it may when necessary meet by electronic means, a telephone or video conference or via any other means of telecommunication guaranteeing at the same time a proper deliberation, but shall meet in person at least once annually unless prevented by circumstances beyond its control.

The Executive Council may, however, take decisions when circumstances so require without a meeting having been convened, provided that all its members are fully informed and a majority respond affirmatively in writing.

Any actions taken without a meeting shall be ratified when the Executive Council next meets. At any meeting of the Executive Council seven members, including the President or a Vice-President and at least three Councillors, shall constitute a lawful quorum. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. The President or, in his absence, the senior Vice-President in attendance shall have a casting vote where the votes are otherwise equally divided.

### **Article 24**

#### **Immediate Past President**

The Immediate Past President of the CMI shall have the option to attend all meetings of the Executive Council, and at his or her discretion shall advise the President and the Executive Council. His or her expenses in so attending shall be met in the same way as those of the Executive Council.

## **PART VI - --NOMINATING PROCEDURES**

### **Article 25**

#### **Nominating Committee**

A Nominating Committee shall be established for the purpose of nominating individuals for election to any office of the CMI.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of:

- (a) A Chair, who shall have a casting vote where the votes are otherwise equally divided, and who shall be appointed by the Executive Council;
- (b) The President and Immediate Past President of the CMI (provided that a Past President may resign from the Nominating Committee at any time upon giving written notice to the President);
- (c) Two members proposed by Member Associations through the procedures of the Nominating Committee, *mutatis mutandis*, and thereafter nominated by the Nominating Committee for election by the General Assembly;
- (d) One further member appointed by the Executive Council.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, no person who is a candidate for office may serve as a member of the Nominating Committee during consideration of nominations to the office for which he or she is a candidate.

All members of the Nominating Committee other than the President and Immediate Past President (who respectively shall hold office *ex officio*) shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election for one additional term.

## **Article 26**

### **Nomination Procedures**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Chair shall determine first:

- (a) whether any Councillors eligible for re-election are available to serve for an additional term in which event he or she shall obtain a statement from such Councillors as to the contributions they have made to the Executive Council or the Nominating Committee during their term(s);
- (b) whether Member Associations wish to propose candidates for possible nomination by the Nominating Committee as a Councillor, or, where applicable, to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Chair shall then notify the Member Associations and seek their views concerning the candidates for nomination. The Nominating Committee shall then make nominations taking such views into account.

Following the decisions of the Nominating Committee, the Chair shall forward its nominations to the Administrator in ample time for distribution not less than six weeks before the meeting of the General Assembly at which nominees are to be elected.

Member Associations may make nominations for election to any office independently of the Nominating Committee, provided such nominations are forwarded to the Administrator in writing not less than 15 working days before the meeting of the General Assembly at which nominees are to be elected. In the absence of any such nominations from Member Associations, the only nominations for election by the General Assembly shall be the nominations of the Nominating Committee.

The Executive Council may make nominations to the Nominating Committee for election by the General Assembly to the offices of Secretary-General, Treasurer and/or Administrator. Such nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Nominating Committee at least fourteen weeks before the meeting of the General Assembly at which nominees are to be elected.

## PART VII - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

### Article 27

#### Composition and Voting

The CMI shall meet in International Conferences at places approved by the General Assembly, for the purpose of discussing and adopting resolutions upon subjects on an agenda approved by the Executive Council.

The International Conference shall be composed of all Members of the CMI and such Observers as are approved by the Executive Council.

Each Member Association which has the right to vote may be represented by its delegates present and by Titulary Members present who are members of that Association. Each Consultative Member may be represented by three delegates. Each Observer may be represented by one delegate only.

Each Member Association present and entitled to vote shall have one vote in an International Conference; no other Member and no Councillor of the CMI shall have the right to vote in such capacity. The right to vote cannot be delegated or exercised by proxy.

The resolutions of International Conferences shall be adopted by a simple majority of the Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting.

Clerical mistakes, or errors arising from an accidental mistake, omission or oversight, or an amendment to provide for any matter which should have been but was not dealt with at an International Conference can be corrected by a resolution at a subsequent General Assembly meeting.

## PART VIII - FINANCE

### Article 28

#### Arrears of Subscriptions

A Member Association remaining in arrears of payment of its subscription for more than one year from the end of the accounting year for which the subscription is due shall be in default and shall not be entitled to vote until such default is cured.

Members liable to pay subscriptions and who remain in arrears of payment for two or more years from the end of the accounting year for which the subscription is due shall, unless the Executive Council decides otherwise, receive no publications or other rights and benefits of membership until such default is cured.

Failure to make full payment of subscriptions owed for three or more accounting years shall be sufficient cause for expulsion of the Member in default. A Member expelled by the General Assembly solely for failure to make payment of subscriptions may be reinstated by vote of the Executive Council following payment of arrears, subject to ratification by the General Assembly. The General Assembly may authorise the President and/or Treasurer to negotiate the amount and payment of arrears with Members in default, subject to approval of any such agreement by the Executive Council.

Subscriptions received from a Member in default shall, unless otherwise provided in a negotiated and approved agreement, be applied to reduce arrears in chronological order, beginning with the earliest accounting year of default.

#### **Article 29**

##### **Fees and Expenses**

The Secretary-General, Administrator and Treasurer shall receive such *honoraria* as may be determined by the Executive Council and the accountants/auditors shall receive such fee as may be approved by the Executive Council.

Members of the Executive Council, the Immediate Past President, and Chairs of Standing Committees, Chairs and Rapporteurs of International Sub-Committees and Working Groups, when travelling on behalf of the CMI, shall be entitled to reimbursement of travelling expenses, as directed by the President or the Executive Council.

The President or the Executive Council may also authorise the reimbursement of other expenses incurred on behalf of the CMI.

#### **Article 30**

##### **Accounting year**

The accounting year of the CMI shall terminate on April 30 each year, unless otherwise determined in conformity with the requirements of Belgian law

### **PART IX – FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 31**

##### **Liability**

The CMI shall not be liable for the acts or omissions of its Members. The liability of the CMI shall be limited to its assets.

#### **Article 32**

##### **Languages**

1. The official language of the CMI shall be Dutch. The formal working languages of the CMI however shall be English and French. The use of other languages is permitted under the condition that the Member, using such other language, shall provide a translation, by preference simultaneous translation, in a working language.
2. The official Dutch language shall prevail in case of a conflict with other languages. In the absence of a document in the official Dutch language, the English and French working languages shall prevail.

### **Article 33**

#### **Dissolution and Procedure for Liquidation**

The General Assembly may, upon written motion received by the Administrator not less than six months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly at which the motion is debated, vote to dissolve the CMI. At such meeting a quorum of not less than one-half of the Member Associations entitled to vote have to be present in order to take a vote on the proposed dissolution. Dissolution shall require the affirmative vote of a three-fourths majority of all Member Associations present, entitled to vote, and voting. Upon a vote in favour of dissolution, liquidation shall take place in accordance with the laws of Belgium. Following the discharge of all outstanding liabilities and the payment of all reasonable expenses of liquidation, the net assets of the CMI, if any, shall devolve to the CMI Charitable Trust, a registered charity established under the laws of the United Kingdom.

### **Article 34**

#### **Governing Law**

Any issue not resolved by reference to the Articles of association shall be resolved by reference to Belgian law.

### **Article 35**

#### **Entry into Force**

The Articles of association shall enter into force on the tenth day following its publication in the *Annexes du Moniteur belge*.