



Comité Maritime International
International Working Group Fair Treatment of Seafarers'
Sub-Committee on Maritime Law and Refugees
Report 31 March 23

During the last months the Sub-Committee has been working on some questionnaires. They were sent out to all the NMLAs. Twelve of them replied. The questionnaire was aimed at collecting information on the relevant national practice of the States about refugees and maritime law. The first part of the questionnaire is about general issues, such as the conduct of rescue activities and their impact on merchant vessels. The second part is about how the pandemic affected refugees and migrants at sea and how the States dealt with them.

An initial working document based on the first Questionnaires received was prepared and presented in the framework of the SC meeting during the Antwerp CMI Conference of October 2022. Such meeting was well attended also by non members of the Committee from several different NMLAs of all the continents and representatives of the International Chamber of Shipping.

The SC is looking forward to receiving more replies to prepare a comprehensive working paper on the subject and producing a comprehensive document.

A new questionnaire currently under study should be aimed at collecting additional information about the eventual practice in relation to topics such as the compensation for merchant vessels conducting government-directed rescues during a mass migration, to identify and share good practices.

The output of the work is supposed to be discussed in the framework of the meeting of the Subcommittee to be held in Tokyo.

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