



# COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

## PRESIDENT

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

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Dear Friends

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Prof. Bülent Sözer a great supporter of and contributor to the work of the CMI over the years and who was a great friend to so many of us. I was in contact with dear Bülent only recently when I congratulated him on his latest book “Unmanned Ships and the Law” published in 2023. It is difficult to come to terms with the fact that he is no longer with us.

Bülent Sözer had a long and illustrious career. After studying law at the University of Istanbul, in 1966 he was admitted to the Istanbul Bar. He obtained his Doctorate in 1973 and had a career in aviation where he was the legal adviser to Turkish Airlines for a number of years and the maritime sector. He taught at Bosphorus University and Koç University and Piri Reis University; he was visiting lecturer at Akdeniz University, and Yeditepe University, responsible for the courses on Maritime Law and the Law of International Carriage, both at graduate and post-graduate levels; he was visiting fellow at Swansea University.

Dr. Sözer was the vice-Chairman of the Turkish Maritime Law Association for three terms.

Bülent’s commitment to the CMI was extensive as the tribute prepared by past Secretary General John Hare attached hereto can attest. He was a member of the CMI International Working Groups on MASS and Ship as well as a panellist on the *Panel of Judges* formed by the CMI to assess the papers submitted by the candidates for the “CMI Young Persons Essay Prize”. Apart from this, Bülent was always a loyal supporter of all CMI initiatives. He had even lent his support by attending the Colloquium on the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial

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Sales of Ships which was held in Malta in 2018 which led to the acceptance of the project by UNICTRAL later on in the same year.

Prof. Bülent Sözer will be sorely missed and on behalf of the CMI I would like to extend our most sincere condolences to his dear family and to the Turkish MLA.



Ann Fenech