



Malta Maritime Law Association

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Malta Maritime Law Association - Progress in the First Half of 2026

Introduction

The first half of 2026 has been a period of transition and steady progress for the Malta Maritime Law Association (MMLA).

A new Executive Committee has taken office, new sub-committees have been set up, and discussions with Transport Malta have continued across several important areas.

While much of the work is ongoing, the focus has been clear: make Malta's maritime framework practical, competitive, and easy to work with for both professionals and businesses.

AGM and Seminar

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in March, following a seminar organised by the Education Sub-Committee "Sailing Towards a Digital Ship Register." The event brought members together, not only to review the past year but also to set the tone for the next phase of work. The seminar focused on current topics affecting the maritime sector and helped create a useful platform for discussion among members and industry participants.



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New Executive Committee and Way Forward

Following the AGM, the newly elected Executive Committee met in April to set priorities and establish sub-committees. The aim was to organise the work in a more focused way, with each group looking after a specific area of the maritime sector.

A key early step was meeting with Transport Malta, where the different sub-committees presented their areas of focus and started discussions on how to work together more closely going forward.



Sub-Committees and Their Focus

The MMLA's work is largely driven through its sub-committees. These groups bring together practitioners and industry experts to focus on specific topics and push forward practical improvements.

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Corporate Sub-Committee - Chair: Dr Lisa Camilleri & Co-Chair: Dr Nicholas Valenzia

This group is looking at Malta's corporate maritime framework, with a particular focus on updating Subsidiary Legislation 234.42 so that it reflects recent changes in the Companies Act. The aim is to make the system clearer and more aligned with how businesses operate today. The committee is also involved in tonnage tax filings and general corporate compliance, with the goal of keeping things consistent and workable in practice.

Education Sub-Committee - Chair: Dr Stephan Piazza & Co-Chair: Dr Edward Meli

This committee continues to organise events and initiatives that promote knowledge-sharing and increase awareness of the maritime sector. Its role is to keep members informed and to raise the profile of the Association both locally and internationally.

Quick-Fixes (Red Tape) Sub-Committee - Chair: Dr Anndrea Moran & Co-Chair: Dr Peter Grima

This group focuses on identifying processes that are too complicated or outdated and finding ways to simplify them. Previous work has included pushing for digital certificates, improving the use of electronic signatures, and looking at alternatives to apostille requirements. The aim is to make the Maltese flag more efficient and easier to work with, without reducing standards.

Tonnage Tax Sub-Committee - Chair: Dr Robert Radmilli

With Malta's current EU-approved tonnage tax system running until 2028, this committee has been set up to help prepare for what comes next. It is working with local authorities and advisors to make sure Malta remains competitive and compliant at EU level, while protecting the interests of the maritime sector.

Yachting Sub-Committee - Chair: Dr Anthony Galea & Co-Chair: Dr Christopher Cini

The yachting sector remains an important area of work. This committee is dealing with ongoing topics such as surveyor regulations and customs procedures, while also

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contributing to discussions on new private yacht guidelines. The group is divided into tax and technical workstreams to cover the different aspects of the sector more effectively.

Merchant Shipping and Regulatory Sub-Committee Chair: Dr Adrian Attard & Co-Chair: Dr Matthew Xerri

This committee focuses on regulatory matters linked to the Merchant Shipping Act. Its work includes issues such as licensing of service providers, compliance requirements, sanctions, resident agents, and developments relating to the maritime section of the Commercial Court. The aim is to keep the regulatory framework clear and practical for those working in the industry.

Work with Transport Malta

Engagement with Transport Malta has remained a key part of the Association's work throughout the year. Discussions have covered a range of topics, including the Code of Standards, the role of resident agents, and broader regulatory updates.

The Association has also supported member engagement by organising sessions where practical issues could be discussed directly with the authorities. This helps ensure that feedback from industry professionals is considered when changes are being considered. In the yachting sector, there has been ongoing dialogue on new guidelines and how developments in other countries may affect Malta. These conversations are important to make sure Malta remains competitive while keeping in line with international expectations.



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Closing Note

Overall, the first half of 2026 has been about laying the groundwork. With a new committee structure in place and active engagement with key stakeholders, the MMLA is well positioned to continue its work in the months ahead. The focus remains on making practical improvements, keeping members involved, and supporting the continued development of Malta's maritime sector

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