

FRENCH MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION (AFDM)

Activity Report

Contribution to the Comité Maritime International

Over recent months, the French Maritime Law Association (AFDM) has maintained a sustained level of activity, marked by national and international conferences, active involvement in the work of the CMI, and the announcement of several forthcoming events.

First AFDM–AIDIM Joint Conference — Genoa (November 2025)

For the first time in over 125 years, the AFDM and the Italian Maritime Law Association (AIDIM) met for a joint conference on “Shipping and the Challenge of Decarbonisation,” hosted at the Genoa Chamber of Commerce under the joint chairmanship of Giorgio Berlingieri and Julien Raynaut. The seminar brought together French and Italian practitioners, academics and industry stakeholders to examine how maritime law can actively drive decarbonisation — from green ships and their financing to contractual frameworks and new fuel-related liabilities. The keynote by Haris Zografakis, Chair of the CMI International Working Group on Decarbonisation, stressed the need for genuine dialogue between international law, civil law and common law. This inaugural event marks the start of an ongoing series of exchanges between the two associations.

International Conference on the Maritime Transport of Live Animals — French Senate (23 January 2026)

The AFDM brought together 170 participants from around ten countries to address the Maritime Transport of Live Animals (TMAV). After an economic and geopolitical framing, stakeholders put forward legal and operational solutions intended to underpin future work. The conference benefited from the participation of Senator Arnaud Bazin and Minister for Transport Philippe Tabarot.

Maritime Arbitration — a defining theme (24 March 2026)

As part of Paris Arbitration Week, the AFDM held a conference on 24 March 2026 entitled “Towards a ‘Civilised’ Conception of Maritime Arbitration,” in collaboration with the Chambre Arbitrale Maritime de Paris, the Chambre arbitrale internationale de Paris (CAIP) and the law firm HFW. The theme is carried forward by the 33rd Journée Ripert, chaired by Julien Raynaut at the Institut de droit comparé (Paris), with round tables on the scope and procedural challenges of maritime arbitration and mediation, a session on arbitration between civil law and common law, an update from the Cour de cassation and a review of case law.

Involvement in the CMI Colloquium — Rio de Janeiro (12–15 May 2026)

The AFDM took part in the annual CMI Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro. Discussions covered ratification of international conventions by Latin American countries, decarbonisation of shipping and ports, the new NCD Convention and its interaction with the Brussels and Rotterdam Convention regimes, security interests over containers under the Cape Town Convention, autonomous vessels, the revision of the 1910 Collision Convention, and the presentation of the CMI Lex Maritima 2025.

The French delegation played a full part: **Sébastien Lootgieter** represented **President Julien Raynaut** in the institutional work and chaired the working group on Cybercrime; **Morgane Roussel** spoke on drafting clauses tested by security crises in charterparties and bills of lading; and **Guérin Loisel** contributed alongside **Nicolas Gracieux** (Exail), reflecting the presence of the French maritime industry.

Governance and forthcoming events

At its most recent General Assembly and Steering Committee, the AFDM announced its next engagements:

- the **Journée Ripert** (2 July 2026) devoted to maritime arbitration;
- **24 September 2026** — a conference co-organised in Antwerp with the Belgian Maritime Law Association;
- **autumn 2026** — a new AFDM conference on geopolitics and maritime law.

The association's leading commissions have continued their work on major maritime law topics, and Professor Martin Ndende's lecture on the new international LEX OCEANOPOLIS chair opened fresh perspectives for collaboration.