

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

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## ATHENS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Lia I. Athanassiou, a Professor of Commercial Law at the Law School of the University of Athens, between 17 and 18 March, 2016. During her visit, Professor Athanassiou gave three lectures on European Law and Shipping, covering the areas of free access to maritime market, competition in maritime transport and interstate competition and state aids.



*Professor Lia I. Athanassiou meeting students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016*

Professor Athanassiou commenced her lecture by discussing free access to the maritime market, where she addressed the access to the ship registry, deliberated on questions relating to the right of establishment of a registry under article 49 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and whether this includes access to the national registry. She further addressed the

problems arising from national implementation of the “genuine link” requirement in international law by discussing the UN Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships, 1986. She also provided an overview of access to international cargo, national transport, and access to ports.

Professor Athanassiou further explained the competition in maritime transport, with emphasis on competition in liner shipping, competition in tramp sector and also inter-state competition. Her lectures also covered aids to shipping industry, partial relaxation of operating conditions and safety as an element of competitiveness.

Professor Lia I. Athanassiou holds a Ph.D. from the University of Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne as well as authorization by the University of Paris I-Sorbonne to supervise University research.

She is Barrister-at-law with vast experience in consulting and arbitration. She is a registered arbitrator at the Hellenic Shipping Chamber and a member of several legislative committees on various commercial law issues.

Professor Athanassiou has also been a visiting lecturer in the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London (IALS) in 2013 and Harvard Law School between 2007 and 2008, during which she was also a Fulbright Scholar. She has lectured and effectuated academic research in several foreign Institutions in France, Italy, Malta, UK, and the United States amongst others.

Between 2003 and 2008, Professor Athanassiou was a member of the Hellenic Competition Commission. She was Vice-President of the Hellenic Association of Maritime Law between 1999 and 2015 and President of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference of Maritime Law, held in Piraeus every 3 years.

Professor Athanassiou has published extensively in French, Greek and English on Maritime Competition, Industrial Property law, Company law, and European and Transport law. Among her published books and monographs are: *“Legal aspects of competition in maritime transport; comparative study based on EC law”*, *“The role and the liability of classification societies”*, *“The debate on the limitation of liability for maritime claims”*, *“Competition and Regulation in Shipping and Shipping Related Industries”*, *“Shareholders’ activism and corporate monitoring”*, and *“Intellectual Property – Greece.”*

She is the Director of the “Maritime Law Studies” edited by Nomiki Vivliothiki (Athens), in which selected studies of national and international maritime law are published.

Her lectures were very well received by the students, who greatly appreciated her vast knowledge in the field of competition law.

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