

## UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Serena Forlati, Associate Professor of International Law and Director of the CeStIntat at University of Ferrara, Italy, on 29 March, 2016. During her visit, Professor Forlati delivered a lecture on Maritime Security.



*Professor Serena Forlati meeting students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016*

Professor Forlati commenced her lecture by giving an overview on The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which was adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 with the aim of promoting cross-border cooperation in tackling organized crime. She further explained three Protocols supplementing the Convention, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and

Ammunition. Countries must become parties to the Convention itself before they can become parties to any of the Protocols.

She delved into details of the scope of application and key obligation of the convention before explaining the key features of the protocols. For the Parties to the Protocols, she said, the obligations stemming from the Parent Convention apply also to human trafficking and migrant smuggling, irrespective of whether or not they qualify as “serious crimes” at domestic level under Art. 2(b) UNTOC. She also added that the Protocols establish additional obligations tailored to target the specificities of trafficking (*e.g. protection of victims, Art. 6 ff. Trafficking Protocol*) or smuggling (*e.g. smuggling by sea, Arts 7 ff. Smuggling Protocol*)

Professor Serena Forlati is also the Director of the CeStInt – *Centro studi e servizi sul diritto straniero e delle relazioni internazionali*, and Coordinator of MaCrO, Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Mafia and Other Forms of Organised Crime. She has published numerous academic papers both in English and Italian, her current research interests focus on international dispute settlement, International Human Rights Law and its interaction with International Criminal Law.

In an interview with the editor of the IMLI e-news, reproduced below, Professor Forlati expressed her pleasure to visit to and lecture at IMLI, a world recognized centre for the training of law graduates in international maritime law.

***Welcome to IMLI, Professor Forlati, we are very pleased to have you here at IMLI. This is your visit to the Institute, how did you feel to be here?***

Everything is perfect, unfortunately I do not have an opportunity to stay long here. I am very much impressed with the enthusiasm of the students. They were very participative and raised a lot of question during my class. All I say that I had a perfect time with the students and good experience of teaching here and meeting the Academic Staff of the Institute.

***In your opinion, what are the current topics in the maritime field, which need to be addressed globally?***

I think there are many maritime issues that need the attention of the international community, like environmental protection and migrants smuggling. Both aspects imply very significant differences between parts of the world, as the interest and priority are different among individual countries or between groups of countries.

Therefore, it needs a comprehensive international regulatory framework to strike a good balance between these differences.

***What kind of collaboration could be established between IMLI and University of Ferrara?***

I really hope there will be an opportunity of a collaboration with IMLI, since we have been also working with University of Malta on a dual degree master program, namely MICAS, Master of Laws in prevention and suppression of international crime at sea. Hopefully, this joint program will be active as of 2017, and in that framework I hope that there will be some scopes of cooperation with IMLI.

We are also certainly very much open to other forms of cooperation.

***We are very impressed with your professional achievement, do you wish to say something to encourage female participation in maritime industry?***

Women's participation in professional life is crucial for any society. The maritime field, I have the feeling, is traditionally more masculine than others, but there is no real reason why it should be limited to men. The real issue, as in many other domains, is combining professional and family commitments; this may be a challenge especially if long periods of time have to be spent at sea. Still, there are a full range of opportunities for women to be active in the maritime sector: not only as seafarers, but also, for example, as lawyers, academics or port/harbor officers.

***Would you like to say a few words of encouragement to our students?***

Each of them will face the real challenge when they come back to their respective country. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

***Thank you very much, Professor Forlati, for your time and we wish you a safe and pleasant journey back to Italy.***

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