

IMLI *e*-News

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MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS OF MALTA VISITS IMLI

Dr Ian Borg (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 21 February 2018 and delivered a speech to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018 on the importance of the maritime sector and the contribution of IMLI to the development of this sector.



Dr Ian Borg (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects of Malta) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

In his introductory remark, Professor David Attard thanked the Honourable Minister for taking time out of his very tight schedule to pay a courtesy visit to the Institute. Professor Attard described the Minister's visit as remarkable, showing the Ministry's commitment and continuous support to the Institute's activities.

In his address, Dr Borg first congratulated the students for getting so far in their career and in pursuing a line of study which will be fruitful to the maritime sector. He underscored the increasing importance of the role and input of the students in any decision-making process, whether public or private, around the world. He advised the students to aim at ensuring the fair treatment and regulation of the maritime industry as well as to help preserve the stability of a world order based on the eradication of conflict between countries and regions through the consolidation of the authority of international organisations that are universally acknowledged.



Dr Ian Borg (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects of Malta) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI)

The Honourable Minister also spoke about the importance of IMLI as a truly global institution which serves the rule of international maritime law, and described it as a success, thanks to the

sterling contribution of its graduates who serve the maritime industry all over the world. He made reference to the IMO's celebration of World Maritime Day this year, which focuses on the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the convention establishing the Organization. He described this celebration as an opportunity to look back as well as forward, towards sustainable growth for all. The Minister spoke of the pivotal role played by IMLI in the success of the IMO, and described the role of IMLI as one that ensures that IMO member States have the legal expertise required for the implementation and enforcement of international maritime law, as well as helping the IMO to ensure universal interpretation and application of these regulations. He commended IMLI for listening to the needs of the sector and broadening its horizon to include other postgraduate programmes apart from the Master of Law, opening new doors and presenting alternative opportunities for individuals coming from different educational backgrounds. Minister Borg stated that the strength of IMLI lies in its universality and in the increased participation and leadership which its graduates provide at the IMO as well as other fora in the evolution of maritime legislation, which has greatly facilitated global implementation and enforcement. He spoke of Malta's pride in its close association with the vision that was IMLI as well as its realisation and reiterated the Maltese Government's unwavering support which has only increased over the years.



Dr Ian Borg delivering his address to the IMLI Class

The Minister said that Malta's support towards IMLI should not come as a surprise, given the importance of the maritime sector for the country's economic success. He made reference to Dr Arvid Pardo's legacy and said that Dr Pardo put into place a precedent for the collective responsibility of safeguarding and managing ocean resources. Minister Borg added that Malta has

now established itself as one of the leading maritime hubs and service centres in the Mediterranean region. He explained how it has developed a very strong regulatory platform that has enabled the Malta Ship Register to become a reputable and internationally recognised ship register which is now the largest in Europe and one of the largest worldwide, boasting over 8,000 ships with a total gross tonnage of over 75.2 million, together with a 19.5% increase in the registration of superyachts in 2017 alone. Hon. Borg also referred to the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, for which he was the responsible Parliamentary Secretary. The maritime sector was one of the six main priorities during this Presidency, and a record number of maritime legislative documents were concluded during its term.

The Minister concluded by expressing his honour in addressing the future of a great industry which is important for every country in the world. While wishing the students success in their studies, he told them that their determination and dedication could be the driving force leading to further successes.

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