

# IMLI *e*-News

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## **EU COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT, MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES INAUGURATES THE IMLI SHORT COURSE ON EU MARITIME LAW**

Mr. Karmenu Vella ( EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 2 March 2018 and delivered the Inaugural Lecture on “EU Maritime Law and Policy” for the academic year 2017-2018.



*Mr. Karmenu Vella ( EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

Mr. Vella started his lecture by sharing his belief that IMLI is a gateway to global ocean knowledge. He referred to IMLI graduates and students as “ocean ambassadors”. He acknowledged and applauded the fact that the type of education IMLI offer focuses both on the legal as well as the non-legal ( scientific) aspects of maritime governance.

Mr. Vella stated that the sea is a part of us. It is our source of livelihood and with the increase in population and dwindling resources on shore, there is the need today more than ever to turn to resources from the oceans. At present, oceans are under-utilised. There are tremendous amounts of sustainable economic opportunities in the oceans that need to be explored.

In this regard, Mr. Vella sounded a word of caution that, in searching for and taking advantage of economic opportunities in the oceans, the environmental considerations must not be forgotten.



*Mr. Karmenu Vella ( EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and Professor Attard (Director, IMLI)*

He encouraged our better management of the ocean to assist in building a sustainable economy. Specifically, he highlighted three major issues that need to be addressed: (1) the issue of overcapacity and overfishing; (2) IUU fishing and (3) the need to promote sustainability, by way of Fisheries Agreements with non-EU countries.



*Mr. Vella delivering his Inaugural Lecture*

Mr. Vella concluded his lecture with the following words:

‘Ocean management is not an easy task. The IMO has no enforcement powers, and thus, there is a need for more “ocean managers”. We are looking up to the IMLI students to become future ambassadors or apostles of ocean governance.’

Mr. Karmenu Vella is the European Union Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2014-present)

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