

## MALTA AMBASSADOR ON CLIMATE CHANGE LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Simone Borg (Malta Ambassador on Climate Action, Head of Department, Environmental & Resources Law, University of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 25 April 2018 and delivered a lecture on “Climate Change: The Ocean and International Law” and “Regulating Climate Change and Its Impacts on Ocean Life: Bridging the Gap between Science and the Law” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



*Professor Simone Borg (Malta Ambassador on Climate Change, Head of Department, Environmental & Resources Law, University of Malta) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

In her lecture, Professor Simone Borg emphasised that in order for law to be responsive to current pressing environmental issues such as Climate Change, there must be an integrated approach when formulating law based on sound and independent scientific research. An integrated approach, requires the streamlining of the effects of climate change upon the Ocean to enable comprehensive law-making exercise in this complex relationship between climate and the Ocean. Professor Borg maintained that it is crucial for International law-making to have the requisite structure that facilitates such an integrated approach to circumvent fragmentation. She further observed that it would be useful for a holistic law-making to have the support of a single scientific body for ocean science which is similar to the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate science. She maintained that International law is dynamic enough to act as an appropriate

tool to ensure Climate and Ocean governance in a manner that is responsive to the current issues surrounding the environmental concerns and the socio-economic development of all States, with the valuable involvement of non-State actors.

**Prof Simone Borg** read for a doctorate degree in laws (LL.D.) in 1991 and a Magister Juris degree in International in 1994 from the University of Malta. In 2009, she obtained her Ph.D. on the Conservation of Marine Natural Resources at the International Maritime Law Institute. Prof Borg worked for the public sector from 1991 to 2004 first as a First Secretary with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then Head of the Legal and Multilateral Affairs Section within the Ministry of the Environment. During this time, she was mainly responsible for negotiating Malta's position in International Environmental Multilateral Agreements, the drafting of legislation and legal policy making in environmental law. She coordinated the transposition of the environmental and energy *acquis communautaire* during Malta's negotiations to become an EU member State. She also participated in various research projects with the European Union and the United Nations. Prof Simone Borg served as the first Chairperson to Malta's Occupational Health and Safety Authority. Presently, she is Chair of the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Head of Department of the Environmental law and Resources law within the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta. Prof Borg is also a visiting lecturer at: the Catholic University of Leuven, the IMO's International Maritime Law Institute and the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She has published law books as well as many articles and papers in law journals. She is a Co-Chair of the Forum of European Legal Experts on Climate Change Adaptation and Chair of the Platform of University of Malta Academics on Climate Change. She is the director of the International Master of Arts Programme in Ocean Governance and a Fellow of the Sustainability College in Bruges. Prof Simone is an Expert on the European Union Expert Team for Horizon 2020 SC5 Advisory Group. She has recently been awarded the Order of Merit by the President of France for her work in environmental law.

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