

## **EC REPRESENTATIVE TO IMO LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Charles Abela (Alternate Accredited Representative of the European Commission to IMO, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), visited the Institute on 3 January 2020 and delivered a lecture to the IMLI class of 2019-2020 on “Port Security and Trade Facilitation”.



*Mr. Charles Abela meeting the students of the IMLI Class of 2019-2020*

In his lecture, Mr. Abela explained to the students the importance of maritime transport in the light of a rapid growth in the volume of the world trade. He emphasized that maritime transport is unable to function on its own, stating that safe and efficient ports are an essential prerequisite for the modern shipping industry. In this respect, Mr. Abela gave an overview of the relevance of facilitation measures, taking into account the current nature of threats to maritime transport. He also discussed the developments in the shipping sector which led to the promulgation of the International Ship and Port Security Code (ISPS), the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE), the Container Security Initiative (CSI), the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) and Import Control System (ICS), among others.

Mr. Charles Abela is currently employed with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and serves as a Senior Project Officer for International Relations. The main duty of this post includes acting as the Alternate Representative of the European Commission to IMO. He is responsible for assisting the European Commission in coordinating EU issues discussed at IMO meetings. Previously, he was Senior Project Officer for Reporting Formalities at EMSA in which position he was responsible mainly for implementing the Reporting Formalities Directive 2010/65/EU which requires EU Member States in developing single windows for the transmission of administrative formalities from ships to public authorities ashore.

Prior to joining EMSA, Mr. Abela worked for over 23 years in the maritime authority in Malta. During this period he occupied different positions related to port authority functions, including Port Logistics Manager, Head of the Operations and Facilities, and Deputy Executive Director (Ports), as well as being Chairman of the different boards related to port work. During this period, he attended number of IMO meetings on behalf of Malta, where he also acted as the Chairman of the IMO Facilitation Committee between 2003 and 2012.

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