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ITALIAN NAVY EXPERT LECTURES AT IMLI

Rear Admiral Fabio Caffio (Expert of International Maritime Law, Italian Navy) visited the Institute and delivered a lecture on “Maritime and Naval Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)”.



Rear Admiral Caffio during his lecture to the IMLI class 2009/2010

In his lecture Rear Admiral Caffio explained that “in general terms CBMs are both formal and informal measures, whether unilateral, bilateral or multilateral that address, prevent, or resolve

uncertainties among States, including both military and political elements. The aim of CBMs at sea is to reduce the possibility of accidental, incidental, or inadvertent war as well as managing problems that might otherwise lead to confrontation.”

He recalled that it is necessary “to distinguish the problems related to maritime disputes concerning boundaries from those concerning situations in which warships could enter each other in direct confrontation. Therefore, one can define as maritime the CBMs related to the joint exercise of rights in disputed maritime zones, meanwhile as naval those aimed to reduce the risk of accidental confrontation of warships.” Rear Admiral Caffio brought as an example of *sui generis* category of naval CBMs those aimed to achieve a common understanding of aspects of Law of the Sea where uncertainty exists.

For a better understanding of the points made, Rear Admiral Caffio brought to the attention of the audience different agreements that States have entered into from time to time.

Rear Admiral Caffio’s lecture was also attended by officers of the Armed Forces of Malta and representatives of Italian Military Mission.

Before joining the Italian Navy, Rear Admiral Caffio studied Law at the University of Rome where he worked for two years as assistant Professor at the Department of Criminal Law. Later he attended compulsory military service as an officer of the Coast Guard and, in 1976 he became Lieutenant of the “Corpo di Commissariato” of the Italian Navy. Presently Rear Admiral Caffio works in the Italian Navy General Staff, as Vice Head of UGCRA.

As an expert of maritime law he was representative of the IT MOD in several international meetings concerning maritime delimitations, negotiations of maritime agreements, PSI and maritime terrorism. He participated also at the meetings of the International Group of experts convened by the IIHL in order to draft the “San Remo Manual on International Law applicable to armed conflicts at sea” (1993 and 1994). He was a member of the Italian delegation at the Diplomatic Conference for the Statute of the International criminal Court (1998).

Rear Admiral Caffio is a member of the “Societe Internationale de Droit Militaire et de Droit de la Guerre”.

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*** For further information please contact Ms. Elda Belja (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*