



SWISS MARITIME NAVIGATION OFFICE HEAD VISITS IMLI

The Institute welcomed Dr. Reto Dürler (Head of the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office) on 11 March 2011. Dr. Dürler, who is also a member of the IMLI Governing Board, was met on his arrival by Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI), who introduced him to the IMLI Class of 2011. During his visit Dr. Dürler delivered a lecture on '*The New SUA Protocols: Development, Content and Scope*'.

Dr. Dürler began his lecture by discussing the nexus between piracy and terrorism, especially in the context of the present day. He dealt in detail with the International Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation of 1988, and the Protocol on Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA 1988). He then examined the development, content and scope of the new SUA Protocols which were adopted in 2005, with special emphasis on the new offences and the boarding provisions set out therein.

Dr. Dürler concluded his lecture by expressing the view that, since the definition of offences found in the new 2005 SUA Protocols is broad in nature, the said treaties could also be used to counter the growing menace of piracy today.



Dr. Reto Dürler (Head of the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office) with Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) and the Class of 2010/2011

Dr. Dürler studied Law, Contemporary History and Languages at the Universities of Basel and Geneva. In 1988 he passed the federal examination to the diplomatic service of his country. Subsequently he served in Pretoria, South Africa, Bonn, Germany and in various functions at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bern. Between 2000 and 2002 Dr. Dürler was Head of the Division of International Affairs in the Federal Ministry of Health of Switzerland.

Dr. Dürler has been the Head of the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office since 2005. In 2009, the Swiss Government appointed him Ambassador and Head of Delegation to the Central Commission of the Navigation on the Rhine which is the oldest international organization in Europe based on the so called Mannheim Convention which came into force in 1868. The Commission has its seat in Strasbourg, France. It stipulates the free navigation on the Rhine River for all its members (Switzerland, Germany, France, Netherlands and Belgium).

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