



## **FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL MARITIME AND HYDROGRAPHIC AGENCY LECTURES AT IMLI**

Professor Peter Ehlers (Former President of the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency) recently visited IMLI and conducted a class work on “How to make marine environmental law” with the students of the Class of 2011/2012.

Professor Ehlers discussed with the students the different principles that have emerged in marine environmental law, the relevant procedures with the established working groups, the adoption and implementation of international conventions on the subject, the amendment procedures to the latter and the benefits of the tacit acceptance procedure. The interactive session offered the students the opportunity to express their own views and bring into the classroom the experience of their own countries in the preparation of marine environmental law.

Professor Ehlers provided also an overview of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (the Helsinki Convention) which was adopted in 1974 and revised in 1992, marking an important milestone in international ecopolitics. Professor Ehlers explained that the Convention formulates regulations obliging Contracting Parties to implement and apply appropriate national protection measures and sets up the legal basis for an intergovernmental co-operation through the International Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM). As an important innovation the Convention no longer sees the protection of the marine environment only as a matter of reduction of inputs, but includes also nature conservation and biodiversity.



*Professor Peter Ehlers (Former President of the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency) lecturing to the Class of 2011/2012*

Professor Ehlers has long been involved in maritime law affairs. During his notable career he has held various positions in the German maritime administration including, President of the German Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency). He has actively participated in international activities at International Maritime Organization, International Hydrographic Organization and Helsinki Commission. A Professor of Law of the Sea at Hamburg University he is a board member of numerous marine scientific and technical institutions and author and editor of numerous publications on maritime, environmental, administrative and legal matters.

After retirement in 2008 he has held leading functions in several maritime institutions, including Governing Board of the World Maritime University, Malmö, Board of Trustees of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, Hamburg, Institute for Law of the Sea and Maritime Law of Hamburg University, Baltic Sea Institute for Maritime, Environmental and Infrastructure Law, Rostock University and Directing Committee of the International Max-Planck Research School for Maritime Affairs, Hamburg.

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