IMLI AND ANKARA UNIVERSITY NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE SEA AND MARITIME LAW (DEHUKAM) RENEW THEIR COOPERATION PROTOCOL

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) accompanied by Mr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law) signed the renewal of the Cooperation Protocol regarding Maritime Law between the Institute and the Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), represented by Mr. Mustafa Başkara (Chief Executive Officer, DEHUKAM) on 27 February 2023.

The signing of the renewal of the Cooperation Protocol took place at the premises of DEHUKAM in Ankara.
As part of the Cooperation Protocol in respect of Maritime Law between IMLI and DEHUKAM, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a set of lectures on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims and Marine Scientific Research to the DEHUKAM LL.M. and Ph.D. candidates. This was followed by the lectures of Mr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law) on the Law of Towage and the Law of Salvage.
Mr. Paul Falzon (International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Inspector in Malta) delivered a lecture entitled “Abandonment – A Stark Reality” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023. Mr. Falzon was welcomed and introduced to the Class by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer Head of Administration, IMLI).
Mr. Paul Falzon (International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Inspector in Malta) together with the ITF Seafarer’s Trust Fellows of 2022-2023

Mr. Falzon's lecture focused on the critical issue of abandonment of seafarers. He discussed what abandonment means and analysed with the aid of statistics, the fact that in the last 4 years, there has been an increase in such cases. He then discussed the consequences of abandonment. To this end, Mr. Falzon explained the tools, which is the Maritime Labour Convention amendments of 2014, in addressing this problem.

The students were very much appreciative of the depth and insight that he shared with them.

SENIOR LEGAL CONSULTANT & LEAD TRAINER LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Illiana Christodoulou Varotsi is a highly regarded legal consultant and shipping industry trainer specialising in Maritime and EU law and policies. She is an accredited mediator, Course Leader with Lloyd’s Maritime Academy, an experienced law drafter, including for the drafting of harmonisation bills for the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU; contribution to the drafting of the Cypriot ratification bill of MLC. She is also an external trainer with DNV Maritime Academy Hellas, where she provides workshops on MLC 2006 to the Greek shipping community. The students benefited enormously from her extensive knowledge.

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS’ FEDERATION ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IMO LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Branko Berlan (International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) Accredited Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)) delivered a lecture entitled “The Contribution of ITF to the Work of IMO for the Protection of the Seafarers” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023. Mr. Berlan was introduced to the Class by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration, IMLI).
As the ITF accredited representative to the IMO, following the vision of the ITF, Mr. Berlan recognizes that the ITF has a loud voice for the seafarers and all workers in the maritime industry. From this viewpoint, he set out to explain to the students his work at the IMO. He explained what he does towards enhancing the influence of the ITF in shaping the maritime policies. Mr. Berlan also discussed his role in continuing to pursue more constructive cooperation with governments and the industry partners.

Being a seafarer for 15 years, with the conclusion of this career as Chief Engineer, he is very much familiar with the people whose rights he contributes to protect and also comes with an outstanding understanding of the issues. The students asked many pertinent questions at the conclusion of his lecture.

Ms. Federica Ninni (Legal Officer, Maritime Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)) delivered a lecture entitled “MLC in Practice: Effective Implementation and the Role of the ILO Committee of Experts” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023. Ms. Ninni was introduced to the class and participants by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration, IMLI).
Ms. Ninni's lecture concluded the IMLI Course on Seafarers' Rights, in which the Introductory Address was delivered by Professor Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and inaugurated by Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, ILO) on 9 February 2023. The Course was attended by over 80 participants.