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IMLI COURSE ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS



IMO International Maritime Law Institute

OVER 30 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

SYNOPSIS

Labour at sea is deemed unique owing to its specific features and the environment in which it takes place. Seafarers, by the nature of their employment, are an isolated international occupational group of workers who face prolonged absence from their homes, resulting in important social and legal consequences. Unfortunately, since the development of the maritime industry, seafarers' fundamental rights have not always been considered a priority, thereby often not respected by shipowners.

Therefore, it was deemed necessary to adopt international rules to make special provisions for seafarers' rights protection and to ensure effective implementation of their provisions through the cooperation of the international community. The latest of these efforts is the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), as amended. The Convention aims to ensure comprehensive worldwide protection of the rights of seafarers and establish a level playing field for countries and shipowners committed to providing decent working and living conditions for seafarers, protecting them from unfair competition on the part of substandard ships.

In addition to the already precarious situation of seafarers, the COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to put this group of persons in a more perilous condition. The outbreak of the pandemic caused countries throughout the world to enact partial or entire lock-downs in an attempt to restrict and or minimize the spread of the virus. Such practices had dire impacts on seafarers. Travel restrictions meant that some seafarers were unable to leave their ships, be repatriated home, or even get urgent medical assistance. Other seafarers saw their contracts unilaterally terminated or be quarantined on board ships for more than 14 days, without getting paid.

A large number of seafarers found themselves stranded on ships beyond the end of their original contracts and unable to be repatriated, due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, whilst an equally high number found themselves stuck at home, unable to join ships and provide for their families.

During this time, IMO, often joining forces with other concerned organizations like the ILO, the ITF and the ICS, worked relentless to address the humanitarian crisis and denial of seafarer's rights, including repatriation, maximum period of service on board, access to medical care ashore, shore leave and access to welfare facilities. This crisis and the importance of the work of seafarers heightened to the extent that IMO's World Maritime Theme 2021 was "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".

IMLI has been in the vanguard in raising awareness on the importance of maritime labour law standards. Indeed, the IMLI Course on Seafarers' Rights reiterates the Institute's commitment to the protection of seafarers in line with the international efforts spearheaded by the IMO and ILO.

The Course will address many aspects of maritime labour law, including the characteristics of international maritime labour law, the functions of ILO, IMO, ITF and other organizations committed to the protection of seafarers' rights, the different international instruments dealing with seafarers, their rights and duties, with particular emphasis on the MLC. The Course will guide participants to the practical application of the MLC, including its amendments, and the efforts being made to limit the effect of the pandemic on seafarers worldwide.

LECTURES AND SPEAKERS

Introductory Address

Professor Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (*Director, IMLI*)

Inaugural Address

Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (*Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, ILO*)

International Maritime Labour Law

Ms. Ramat Jalloh (*Lecturer, IMLI*)

Seafarers' Rights under the MLC

Mr. Douglas Stevenson (*Former Director, Center for Seafarers' Rights at Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey*)

Unsung Heroes: Seafaring during the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Ms. Katie Higginbottom (*Head of the ITF Seafarers' Trust*)

The Contribution of ITF to the Work of IMO for the Protection of Seafarers

Mr. Branko Berlan (*ITF Accredited Representative to the IMO*)

Crew Abandonment- A Stark Reality

Mr. Paul Falzon (*ITF Contact General Workers Union - Malta*)

Maritime Labour Standards: COVID-19 Challenges

Dr. Iliana Christodoulou-Varotsi

(*Professor, International Maritime Law*) (TBC)

Maritime Labour Standards: Developments Post COVID-19

Dr. Iliana Christodoulou-Varotsi

(*Professor, International Maritime Law*) (TBC)

MLC in Practice: Effective Implementation and the Role of the ILO Committee of Experts

Lawyer, International Labour Organization

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Course is addressed to persons directly involved with maritime labour law issues. It will be particularly beneficial to policy makers and legal drafters, as well as maritime administrations' and port authorities' officers. The Course will also be of benefit to private practitioners who handle seafarers' rights infringements and any other person who advocates for the upholding of seafarers' rights.

The Course will be delivered delivered in a hybrid mode, thus external participants may attend either online or in situ.

Candidates who attend at least 80 per cent of the lectures will be eligible for a Certificate of Attendance.



TUITION FEE

€ 1,000

*To apply, please contact by not later than 4 February 2023
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Bearing in mind that eminent personalities from all over the world deliver lectures in the Institute's courses, candidates applying to a course shall be flexible as the dates of delivery may be subject to change. The Institute reserves the right to make changes to the programme.

For more information on the Institute and its programmes and courses visit www.imli.org.

