

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR AT THE ADRIATIC INSTITUTE OF THE CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI was delighted to welcome again Dr. Adriana V. Padovan (Associate Professor and Scientific Advisor, Adriatic Institute, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts).

Upon her arrival Dr. Padovan was warmly welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), the IMLI Staff and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.



Dr. Padovan delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Shipbuilders’ Risks Insurance Contract*” to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Dr. Adriana V. Padovan (Associate Professor and Scientific Advisor, Adriatic Institute, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



Dr. Adriana V. Padovan (Associate Professor and Scientific Advisor, Adriatic Institute, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) and IMLI Class of 2025-2026

FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LAW OF THE GERMAN STATE OF BREMEN AND BREMENHAVEN VISITS IMLI

Mr. Björn Tschöpe (former Deputy Minister for Law of the German State of Bremen and Bremenhaven) accompanied by Mrs. Angela Tschöpe, Mr. Lino Vassallo (Former General Secretary, Malta Shipowners' Association), and Mr. Paul Zammit paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on 3 December 2025.

The guests were warmly welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff. They were then introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 and held a discussion meeting with Ms. Kazara-Belja.



Mr. Björn Tschöpe, Mrs. Angela Tschöpe, Mr. Lino Vassallo, Mr. Paul Zammit, Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja, and the IMLI Faculty together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE VIETNAM MARITIME AND WATERWAYS ADMINISTRATION VISITS IMLI

Mr. Giang Hoang Hong (Deputy Director General, Vietnam Maritime and Waterways Administration) paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on 3 December 2025. Deputy Director General Hong was warmly welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff. Upon his arrival he was introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026. A meeting between Deputy Director General Hong and Ms. Kazara-Belja ensued to discuss possible future cooperation.



Mr. Giang Hoang Hong (Deputy Director General, Vietnam Maritime and Waterways Administration), Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), and the IMLI Faculty together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



Mr. Giang Hoang Hong (Deputy Director General, Vietnam Maritime and Waterways Administration) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

IMLI ACADEMICS AND THE CLASS OF 2025-2026 ATTEND THE FENECH & FENECH SHIPPING CONFERENCE 2025 HELD IN MALTA

On 3 December, 2025, Members of the IMLI Faculty and the Class of 2025-2026 had the opportunity to attend the *Fenech & Fenech Shipping Conference 2025*. The event entitled “*Navigating the Current*” was held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry in Valletta, Malta. This Conference brought together industry stakeholders to share ideas on three very important current issues within the maritime sector, such as decarbonisation, judicial sales, and sanctions.



MANAGING DIRECTOR, COMBINED MARITIME SERVICES LIMITED LECTURES AT IMLI



Mr. Godwin Xerri (Managing Director, Combined Maritime Services Limited)

On 5 December 2025, IMLI had the pleasure of welcoming again Mr. Godwin Xerri (Managing Director, Combined Maritime Services Limited). Mr. Xerri was warmly greeted Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff. Upon his arrival, Mr. Xerri was introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Subsequently, Mr. Xerri proceeded to deliver the first of a set of lectures entitled “*Shipping Law: An Overview*” to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Mr. Xerri has been a long time friend and staunch supporter of the Institute ever since he started lecturing during the academic year 1998-1999.



Mr. Godwin Xerri (Managing Director, Combined Maritime Services Limited) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



Mr. Godwin Xerri (Managing Director, Combined Maritime Services Limited) and Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO MALTA VISITS IMLI

H.E. Valentina Setta (Ambassador of Italy to Malta), accompanied by Commander Andrea Meloni (Italian Coast Guard Cooperation Officer in Malta), paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on Wednesday 10 December 2025.

Ambassador Setta and Commander Meloni were warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff. Ambassador Setta was then introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026, followed by a tour of the IMLI premises. A discussion meeting between Ambassador Setta and Director Martínez Gutiérrez ensued on possible future cooperation between IMLI and the Italian Authorities.



From L-R: Lieutenant Ciro Bianco (Member of the 2025-2026 IMLI Class hailing from Italy), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), H.E. Valentina Setta (Ambassador of Italy to Malta), and Commander Andrea Meloni (Italian Coast Guard Cooperation Officer in Malta)



H.E. Valentina Setta (Ambassador of Italy to Malta) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



H.E. Valentina Setta (Ambassador of Italy to Malta) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

PRESIDENT OF THE SWEDISH MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION

LECTURES AT IMLI



On 12 December 2025, IMLI was delighted to welcome once again Dr. Paula Bäckdén (President, Swedish Maritime Law Association; Swedish Average Adjuster [Dispascheur]).

Upon her arrival, Dr. Bäckdén was warmly greeted by Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law), IMLI Faculty and Staff. This was followed by her formal introduction to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026. Dr. Bäckdén then proceeded to deliver a set of lectures entitled “*General Average: Practice and Procedure*” to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.



Dr. Paula Bäckdén (President, Swedish Maritime Law Association; Swedish Average Adjuster [Dispascheur]) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



Dr. Paula Bäckdén (President, Swedish Maritime Law Association; Swedish Average Adjuster [Dispascheur]), Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law), IMLI Faculty, and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

DIRECTOR & FOUNDING PARTNER OF VELLA ADVOCATES LECTURES AT IMLI

On 15 December 2025, IMLI had the distinct pleasure of welcoming back one of its longstanding supporters, Dr. Ivan Vella (Director & Founding Partner, Vella Advocates; Member, Maritime Law Advisory Council).

Dr. Vella was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff.

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez then formally introduced Dr. Vella to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Dr. Vella then proceeded to deliver a set of lectures entitled “*International Conventions on Maritime Liens and Mortgages*” to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.



Dr. Ivan Vella (Director & Founding Partner, Vella Advocates; Member, Maritime Law Advisory Council) meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



Dr. Ivan Vella (Director & Founding Partner, Vella Advocates; Member, Maritime Law Advisory Council) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

FESTIVE SEASON AT IMLI



The Institute held its annual Light Switch-on and Decoration of its premises on Wednesday 10 December 2025. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the students of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026, joined together with the IMLI Faculty and Staff in this celebratory occasion. Ornaments were placed on the tree till it was vibrantly decorated. This was followed by the switching-on of the lights, officially marking the beginning of the festive season at IMLI.

