

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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THE IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF PORTS

On Tuesday 13 January 2026, IMLI commenced the Seventh Edition of its annual Course on the Law of Ports.

This Course underscored that Ports have been vital centres of international trade throughout history and remain integral to what is widely regarded as the most efficient mode of transport.

Serving as crucial centres in the global trading system, ports sustain growth and commercial activity. Their strategic importance has resulted in a complex network of international regulatory standards, largely derived from the treaty instruments developed under IMO Conventions.



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IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF PORTS

IMO
International Maritime Law Institute



OVER 35 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

In recognition of the need to strengthen expertise across all areas of international maritime law, IMLI, delivers annually this Course which examines IMO's role in promoting effective port governance and underscores the responsibilities of States to implement their international legal obligations.

The Course was delivered between 13 and 30 January 2026.



In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) emphasized the ongoing importance of ports as vital hubs for global trade, ocean governance, and international shipping.

Director Martínez Gutiérrez noted that, together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026, another 35 external participants have registered in the Course. This strong interest is the result of IMLI's capacity-building policy to provide one free seat to every IMO Member State and the eagerness of private individuals to hone their skills in this particular area of the law.

The Director then explained that ports, while traditionally under national jurisdiction, now serve as key points where international maritime law meets operational practice, playing a central role in safety, security, environmental protection, trade facilitation, and compliance with the IMO legal framework.

Director Martínez Gutiérrez then proceeded to introduce Ms. Tatjana Krilic (Deputy Director, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO) to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 and the external participants attending this Course.

Ms. Krilic delivered the Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI Course on the Law of Ports entitled "*The Role of IMO in Developing Port State Control Measures*".





Dr. Jan Hoffmann (Global Lead, Maritime Transport and Ports, The World Bank) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Port Performance and Supply Chain Relationship*”.

Mr. Frederick J. Kenney (Rear Admiral (Ret.); Adjunct Professor, Swansea University; former Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*ISPS Code and Ports*”. IMLI gratefully acknowledges the CMI Charitable Trust for generously sponsoring Mr. Kenney’s visit.



Ms. Gillian Grant (Manager, IOPC Funds United Kingdom) delivered a lecture entitled “*The 2010 HNS Convention: why does it matter?*”

Professor Craig Forrest (Professor of Law and Director of the Marine and Shipping Law Unit, TC Beirne School of Law University, Queensland) delivered a lecture entitled “*Potentially Polluting Wrecks*”.



Ms. Hassiba Benamara (Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD) delivered a lecture entitled “*2025 Review of Maritime Transport – Staying the course in turbulent waters*”.

Dr. Kai-Dieter Classen (Deputy Director, / SEC2-2 Workplace Internationalization, EU State Aid Law, Hamburg Port Authority) delivered a lecture entitled *“The Green Ports Concept – Selected Public Policies for Greening Ports”*.



Mr. Charles Abela (Senior Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA); Alternate Representative of the European Commission to the IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“Port Security and Trade Facilitation”*.

Professor Michael Faure (Academic Director Maastricht European Institute for Transnational Legal Research - Maastricht University) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Criminal Liability for Oil Pollution Damage: An Economic Analysis”*.



Mr. Omar Hassenin (Head, Member State Audits, Sub division for Member State Audit and Implementation, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)”* and *“Port State Activities – IMO Member States’ Rights and Obligations”*.

Ms. Gerardine Delanoye (Capacity Building & Resources Manager, IALA World-Wide Academy) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“IALA and the Academy”*, *“IALA Risk Management Toolbox”*, and *“IMO Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services”*.





Mr. Julián Abril García (Head, Facilitation Section, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Introduction to the IMO Facilitation Convention on International Maritime Traffic and its Annex*” and “*Benefits of Maritime Trade Facilitation for the Port States*”.

The Course brought together participants from diverse professional backgrounds to explore key legal, regulatory, and operational aspects of port governance and management.

Participants found the Course to be highly beneficial, noting its practical relevance and the depth of expertise shared by both the distinguished visiting fellows and the resident faculty. The Course not only strengthened their understanding of the Law of Ports but also provided valuable insights that can be directly applied in their professional work.



This specialized Course was co-ordinated by Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law / Coordinator of Academic Affairs), who, together with the Members of the IMLI Faculty, delivered several lectures within the Course.

