

# IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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## IMLI HOSTS IMO WORKSHOP ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DRAFTING NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT IMO CONVENTIONS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) held its second “*Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation to implement IMO Conventions*” at IMLI between 20 and 23 January 2026.



*Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Ms. Jennifer Watson (Legal Consultant, UK Department for Transport; Legal Consultant, IMO), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026*

Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) headed the team of IMO experts. Alongside Ms. Cherif, IMLI had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. George Demetriades (Audit Officer, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, IMO), Ms. Jennifer Watson (Legal Consultant, UK Department for Transport; Legal Consultant, IMO), and Mr. Marc Patel (Legal Consultant, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, UK; Legal Consultant, IMO) who together delivered several presentations both *in-situ* and online to the IMLI Class.



*Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO)*



*Mr. George Demetriades (Audit Officer, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, IMO)*



*Ms. Jennifer Watson (Legal Consultant, UK Department for Transport; Legal Consultant, IMO)*

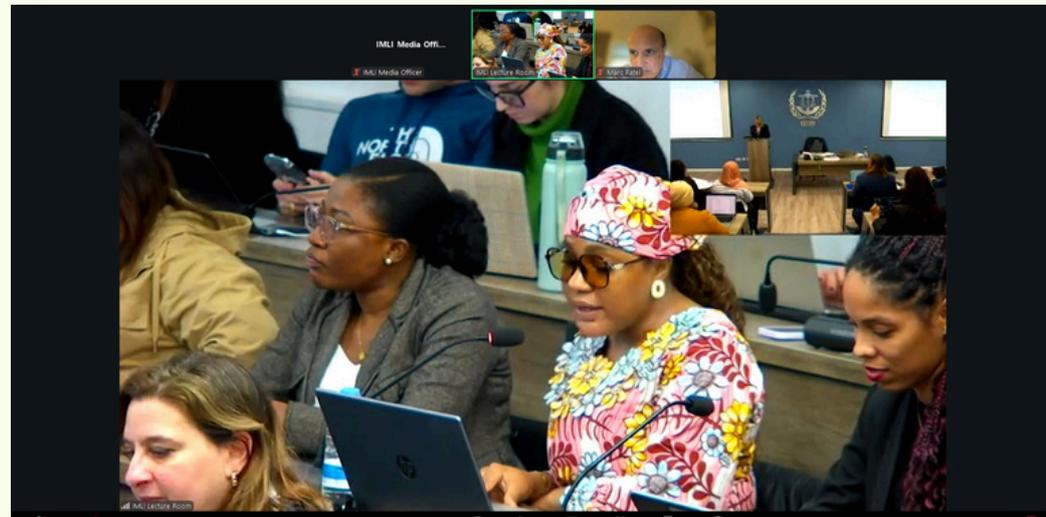


*Mr. Marc Patel (Legal Consultant, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, UK; Legal Consultant, IMO)*

The Workshop opened with an overview of the implementation of IMO Conventions, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of flag, port and coastal States, as well as key concepts such as the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) and the meaning of “*to the satisfaction of the Administration.*” Participants were also introduced to the law-making process in common law countries, followed by sessions on drafting national legislation for the effective implementation of the IMO instruments.

A significant part of the programme was dedicated to drafting exercises, allowing participants to apply theoretical knowledge into practice. These exercises dealt with major IMO conventions such as the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Each exercise was supported by expert guidance from the IMO Team and concluded with detailed debriefing sessions, encouraging reflection and peer discussion.



*The Class of 2025-2026 engaged in group work and class presentations*

The final day of the Workshop included discussions on gender-related issues in the maritime and legislative drafting context which were followed by a feedback session where participants shared their experiences and the lessons they had learned.

The Workshop marked yet another successful and intensive capacity-building programme that enhanced the participants' ability to draft clear, effective national legislation, aligned with IMO conventions.

## UNIVERSITY OF MALTA PROFESSOR LECTURES AT IMLI

On 27 January 2026, a long standing friend and supporter of the Institute, Professor Omar Grech (Associate Professor, Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) visited IMLI to address its students.

Professor Grech was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Staff and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Professor Grech delivered a series of lectures entitled “*Introduction to International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law*” and “*Human Rights at Sea*”.



*Professor Omar Grech (Associate Professor, Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) meeting the students*



*Professor Omar Grech (Associate Professor, Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026*

## IMLI GOVERNOR LECTURES AT THE INSTITUTE

On 11 February the Institute had the distinct pleasure of welcoming back a Member of its Governing Board, Professor Dr. Dr. H.C. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia, and Member, IMLI Governing Board).

Professor Pavliha was warmly greeted by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff, and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026. Upon his introduction to the students, Professor Pavliha proceeded to deliver his first lecture within the Institute's Course on "Marine Insurance Law".

IMLI notes with great pleasure that this academic year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Professor Pavliha has visited IMLI to impart invaluable knowledge and expertise to the IMLI Class. Throughout these years, he has been a staunch supporter of the Institute and its programmes and activities.

Professor Pavliha concluded his numerous lectures with the traditional "Moot Court on Insurance Law", which is an engaging and practical exercise.



*Professor Dr. Dr. H.C. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia, and Member, IMLI Governing Board) delivering his lecture*



*Professor Dr. Dr. H.C. Pavliha meeting the students*



*Professor Dr. Dr. H.C. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia, and Member, IMLI Governing Board) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026*