

## REPORT ON CMI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING – NEW YORK

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The CMI Executive Council met in New York on 30 April and 1 May 2008, at the same time as the US MLA was having its Spring Meeting. The CMI Executive Council was entertained to lunch by the US MLA Executive at the New York Yacht Club. The highlight of the visit to the New York Yacht Club was a tour of the premises, which included a visit to the area where the America's Cup used to be displayed.

At the Executive Council Meeting, it was reported that the substantive program for the Athens Conference had been finalised and papers were being prepared for publication in the CMI Yearbook - Athens 1. At the time of the Executive Council Meeting, there were already over 100 delegates registered.

For those still unaware of the date of the Athens Conference, I confirm that it is to take place between 12 and 17 October. Details of the Conference can be obtained from the Conference website ([www.cmi2008athens.gr](http://www.cmi2008athens.gr)). If you wish to contact the Conference organisers, Triaena Tours and Congress SA, their email address is [congress@triaenatours.gr](mailto:congress@triaenatours.gr).

The two principal topics being discussed during the conference are Places of Refuge and Procedural Rules Relating to Limitation of Liability in Maritime law. In addition, there will be a distinguished panel of speakers discussing the recently concluded UNCITRAL draft convention. Other topics to be covered include non-technical measures to promote quality shipping for carriage by sea, implementation of Maritime Conventions, Charterers Rights of Limitation, Ship Recycling and Wreck Removal.

An update on the current status of the HNS Convention will also be given.

I hope to see as many MLAANZ members as possible at the Conference. As you may know, Jean-Serge Rohart will be stepping down as President and his successor will be chosen at the Assembly Meeting.

The Executive Council Meeting noted that discussions were still taking place with the Chilean Association concerning the holding of a Colloquium in that country in 2010 and the Chinese MLA has offered to host the next CMI conference in 2012.

It is also possible that CMI and the Dutch MLA will arrange a Colloquium to take place in September 2009, when it is anticipated that the UNCITRAL Convention will be signed.

The balance of the Executive Council Meeting was taken up with discussion of a report submitted to the Executive Council Meeting by a Steering Committee consisting of the Secretary General, (Nigel Frawley), and the two Vice Presidents (Karl Johan Gombrii and the writer). That Steering Committee had met to discuss a number of issues that had been raised by National Maritime Law Associations in response to the questionnaire which had been sent to them. As a result of the Executive Council Meeting, there were some further matters that needed to be considered by the Steering Committee. That has now taken place and it is hoped that the Steering Committee's report will be finalised, and its recommendations put before the Assembly in Athens.

The recommendations deal with topics such as a revision of the subscription amounts paid by MLAs, greater contact between MLAs and CMI (principally by a revamped CMI website), shorter periods in office for Executive Councillors and office bearers, a greater focus on seeking to assist start up MLAs (as well as fostering the development of established MLAs by Executive Councillors), and the promotion of Young Lawyers.

In relation to other "Work in Progress" matters, Mans Jacobsson reported on developments relating to the HNS Convention. He noted that a focus group had been established by the IOPC Fund to prepare a Protocol dealing with three particular matters which appear to have impeded ratification of this Convention. A draft Protocol is to be considered by the IMO Legal Committee in October 2008, at which time the convening of the diplomatic conference is likely to be considered.