



# COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

## PRESIDENT

15 May 2020

MLA Presidents  
Titulary Members  
Consultative Members

*Re: Notice, Agenda, Voting Form, and Documents for  
Correspondence Assembly – 30 June 2020*

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

Further to my correspondence of 9 April 2020, the Japanese Maritime Law Association and Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee are pleased to advise the 2021 Tokyo Conference has been tentatively re-scheduled to take place on 26-30 September 2021. Additional details on the work programme and arrangements for the Conference will be provided in due course.

In the meantime, the Executive Council held its Spring 2020 virtual meeting on 1-15 May 2020, which was conducted via several rounds of email correspondence, and has decided to convene a “Correspondence Assembly” on 30 June 2020, in order to comply with Belgian law and Royal Decrees dated 9 and 29 April 2020, which temporarily waive the requirement of a physical Assembly meeting as long as the virtual Assembly takes place by 30 June 2020. Hence, the date selected for the virtual Assembly since, under the CMI Constitution, 6 weeks advance notice has to be provided to Member Associations of any such Assembly meeting.

Attached please find the “Notice of Correspondence Assembly” and “Agenda and Voting Form” which have been prepared with the kind assistance of Jean-Francois Peters to ensure they comply with Belgian law and the provisions of the two Royal Decrees. The abbreviated Agenda addresses essential matters that need to be approved under Belgian law on an annual basis (i.e., approval of Assembly Minutes, Financial Accounts and Budgets, Executive Council elections, etc.), as well as a few other items reflected on the Agenda. The Notice also includes instructions for completing the “Voting Form” which must be returned by electronic mail by no later than 26 June 2020, in order to comply with Belgian law and accommodate a four-day window for responding to any questions as mandated by the Royal Decrees.

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Please note the Mexico City 2019 Assembly Minutes were published in the latest News Letter (No. 1 2020), which is available on the CMI's website, and were formally approved by the Executive Council earlier this week (subject to correction of minor typographical errors). The final Mexico City 2019 Assembly Minutes will be forwarded to you next week (since they require Assembly approval).

As noted in the Treasurer's Report and 2020/2021 Budgets (attached for your ready reference), the 2019 Accounts reflect a substantial loss which the Executive Council recognizes needs to be avoided in the future; however, the revised 2020 COVID-19 Budget anticipates a surplus (due to reduced Executive Council expenses and the cancellation of the Tokyo Assembly) which will offset the 2019 loss.

The Executive Council is grateful to the Nominating Committee members for expediting their consultation and nomination process (so as to comply with Article 26 of the Constitution which requires that their report, attached for your review, be issued 6 weeks prior to the Assembly). Please note two Executive Councillors will complete their second term in 2021 and, thus, will need to be replaced during the 2021 Tokyo Assembly.

We request for the sake of good order your approval for the one-year postponement of the Tokyo, Montreal and Gothenburg meetings (with our appreciation to the Canadian and Swedish MLAs for their cooperation and understanding in accommodating the postponement of the Tokyo Conference), note the 2022 Antwerp meeting to celebrate the CMI's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary remains scheduled for 18-21 October 2022, and anticipate requesting the Assembly to formally approve the Brazilian MLA's offer to host a conference in Rio de Janeiro (albeit in 2025 rather than 2024) during the 2021 Tokyo Assembly.

Finally, we would be grateful for your approval of the recommendation to delegate to the Standing Committee on General Average Interest Rates the authority to set the YAR 2004 and/or YAR 2016 GA interest rate for 2021 by 31 December 2020 (when we should have more clarity on the effect of COVID-19 on interest rates), and replace the LIBOR interest benchmark which is set to disappear next year. Likewise, we would ask you to approve the Consultative Membership application of Cargo Incident Notification System (CINS), which is endorsed by the Executive Council, and note CINS is a private organization comprised of large container lines, concentrates on the safety of container shipping, interacts with the relevant inter-governmental authorities to formulate appropriate recommendations or advice, and may be helpful to the CMI as we continue to encourage ratification of the Rotterdam Rules (please refer to CINS' website for more information on this organization: <https://www.cinsnet.com>).

We look forward to your participation in the 30 June 2020 virtual Assembly.

Faithfully yours,



Christopher O. Davis