



COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

18th March 2026

Executive Councillors
Presidents of National Maritime Law Associations
Consultative Members
Titulary Members

Dear Friends,

Bent Nielsen – RIP

In the midst of the euphoria surrounding the coming into force of the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships exactly one month ago, I received the unexpected and very sad news of the passing of Mr Bent Nielsen, Member Honoris Causa of the CMI. You would have noted that we immediately issued an announcement on our social media.

On a personal level, this news came as a particular shock. I had the great pleasure of spending a wonderful evening with Bent last November at a dinner held at the Danish Design Museum in Copenhagen on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Danish Maritime Law Association. He was, as ever, in fine form.

Bent Nielsen was a great, highly accomplished gentleman whose presence within, and contribution to, the work of the CMI are truly legendary. From his many years as Chair of the Nominating Committee, to his role as one of the first members of the CMI International Working Group that produced the York-Antwerp Rules 1994, and his continued involvement through to the York-Antwerp Rules 2016, Bent's commitment to the unification of maritime law was unwavering. He was also one of the most respected and influential lecturers at the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta on the subject of General Average, where he was both admired and deeply loved.

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Our Secretary General Rosalie Balkin has prepared a touching tribute to Bent and I am attaching it hereto. It is also available on the CMI Website at <https://comitemaritime.org/passing-of-mr-bent-nielsen/>

Our most sincere condolences go to Bent's family.

IWG on Decarbonisation - Questionnaire

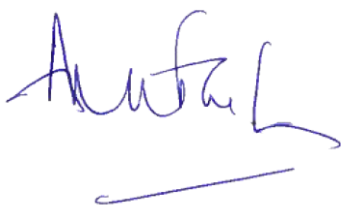
Further to my letter of 6 January 2026, in which I circulated the questionnaire prepared by the Greener Contracts workstream operating within the IWG on Decarbonisation, I wish to inform you that the deadline for responses has now been **extended to 3 April 2026**.

The responses received from National Maritime Law Associations will be synthesised into a paper to be presented at the Rio Colloquium. This paper will form an important platform for the continuation of the IWG's work on greener shipping contracts.

Responses are to be sent to Daniel-Luc Farrugia, a member of the IWG, at daniel.farrugia@fenechlaw.com by **3 April 2026**.

As we look ahead, preparations for the Rio Colloquium are progressing extremely well. The programme is shaping up to be an outstanding one, with a strong line-up of panelists addressing some of the most topical and important issues facing maritime law today. I very much encourage you all to attend and to take part in what promises to be a truly memorable Colloquium.

Best regards
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Fenech', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ann Fenech
President