



COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

23 June 2023

Dear President

If you attended the Assembly meeting in Montreal you would have heard me saying that President Ann Fenech has asked me to chair a new Standing Committee whose sole purpose is to seek to have States ratify the Rotterdam Rules.

I also said we'd had a very successful meeting with the MLAUS team who are working to secure the ratification in the US. As a result I feel that the MLAUS is on track to break the log jam in the US.

The members of the Standing Committee are David Farrell, Alexander von Ziegler, Peter Laurijssen, Paula Backden, Eduardo Albors, and Tomotaka Fujita. The Standing Committee has put together a dossier of documents which is **attached** and which is designed to remind all MLAs of the history of this reform, and the comments of key stakeholders since 2008 as to why they needed to be ratified. It should enable you to prepare a brief to your government whose bureaucracy may have completely forgotten its history.

There is a particularly helpful Power Point presentation by Kate Lannan (former Secretary of Uncitral), in the attached documents, which seeks to identify the benefits and detriments to all stakeholders. We are not under any illusions that the task will be easy but it seems to me CMI must seek to galvanise MLAs and provide them with the necessary tools to persuade their governments that they need to get proactive 15 years after the Rules were agreed.

In my concluding remarks to the Assembly I identified the following key benefits of the Rotterdam Rules:

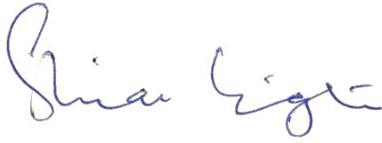
- Uniformity
- Facilitates Electronic Commerce
- No nautical fault defence
- Extended time limits
- Extended seaworthy responsibilities
- Jurisdiction and Arbitration provisions
- A more comprehensive and all encompassing code for the carriage of goods
- Responsibilities on shippers to accurately describe their cargo -thus safety.
- Slightly increased package limitations.

I invited MLAs at the Assembly to embrace this challenge and to seek whatever help the Standing Committee might be able to offer you. I also urged the MLAs to keep the Standing Committee informed of your activities in this regard.

REGISTERED OFFICE CMI, AISBL: Ernest Van Dijckkaai 8, B-2000 Antwerp, Belgium
Enterprise n° 0867 385 381
www.comitemaritime.org

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Hetherington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stuart" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hetherington".

Stuart Hetherington
Chair of the Rotterdam Rules Ratification Standing Committee

Stuart.hetherington@cbp.com.au

61 418 208 771 (mobile)
612 82814477 (direct line.)

Regards