



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Russia Regains CMI Membership

Membership to the Comité Maritime International (CMI) has been granted to the Russian Maritime Law Association (RUMLA).

In recent correspondence to members, CMI president Christopher Davis wrote: “I take this opportunity to offer a warm welcome to RUMLA which was formally approved for CMI membership by the Assembly on September 30, 2021. We very much look forward to working with RUMLA on issues of mutual interest and the participation of RUMLA’s members in the work of the CMI going forward.”

It is understood that RUMLA has agreed to settle previously-unpaid membership fees, which led to its CMI membership being cancelled in 2017.

RUMLA president Konstantin Krasnokutsky reportedly said that exclusion had left the Russian maritime community “abandoned” on the international stage.

“We believe it is not possible to be considered as a fully valid member of the international shipping community without a possibility to share alike the discussion of the community rules and without an opportunity to communicate our position and our requirements with the foreign and international players,” he reportedly told *IAA PortNews*.

Mr Krasnokutsky said having a voice in such forum was “more of necessity than of prestige”.

“Issues of importance in Russia – including development of shipping in the Arctic, ensuring practical formalities of rescue, guarantees etc for ship owners as well as consistent and predictable processes of arrests and forced sales – cannot be addressed without international practice taken into consideration.

“International practice is not a solid block of solutions but a dynamic system which was not aligning with the maritime community of Russia until recently.

“Our task is to right in justice by recovering the opportunity of international collaboration both via governmental organisations (the International Maritime Organization as an agency of the United Nations) and via the CMI (established in 1897), one of the oldest and respected global platforms.”

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