

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

I proudly present to you the new issue of the journal *Comparative Maritime Law*, which has been published since 1958. This volume includes scientific papers addressing current issues, which have arisen in the field of the international law of the sea and the maritime law; court decision reviews with comments; book reviews; and exhibition reviews. I further feel obliged to inform you that there have been several changes to our editorial staff. A number of younger scholars have joined our journal, as well as colleagues from Chairs for the Maritime Law at universities in Italy and Spain. Their curricula vitae have been published on the official websites of our journal. I welcome them all and wish them a lot of success in their work.

As regards the international law, the most critical issue at this moment is undoubtedly the issue of the refugees at the Mediterranean Sea and their status according to the international law. The territorial reach of the legal principle of *non-refoulement*, which entails that no refugee should be returned to any country where he or she is likely to be in danger, has been scrutinised and explained in the frame of this volume by Professor Davorin Rudolf Junior and Anamaria Kovačević, student. In this context, coast guards of the coastal states play a very important and demanding role. Legal regulations defining the role of Croatian Coast Guard in the protection and preservation of Croatian national interests at sea and those related to the sea are the topic of the scientific paper written by Professor Vesna Barić Punda, Damir Juras PhD, and Irena Kardum, LLB.

Being a Mediterranean coastal state with a developing tourist industry, Croatia has a strong interest not only in preserving its maritime domain, but also in bringing up foreign investments. For this reason, legal nature and possibilities for the economic exploitation of the maritime domain in the Republic of Croatia are being discussed. The author of this paper, Professor Vladimir-Đuro Degan, together with deceased Professor Branko Jakaša, who was Director of the Adriatic Institute of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts at that time, opposed trends for privatisation of the maritime domain in 1994, when the war in Croatia was still raging. Instead of privatisation, he advocated the granting of concessions to natural and legal persons in relation to carrying out certain economic activities within the maritime domain.

This volume further includes a paper that analyses, comments and interprets the norms of the Maritime Code addressing the recovery of wrecks and sunken objects. The authors – Vesna Skorupan Wolff, PhD, and Adriana Vincenca Padovan, Asst. Prof., PhD – explain the theoretical and practical background related to the amendments of the Croatian Maritime Code, introducing the novel legal regulation for the recovery of wrecks and sunken objects, as well as compulsory removal of wrecks. Additionally, guidelines for their implementation in practice are delivered.

In certain cases, the maritime law overlaps with other branches of law, such as the international commercial law. This may happen in situations when transport documents for carriage of goods are used. This volume presents exceptional scientific research on fraudulent transport documents, which was conducted by Professor Časlav Pejović, as well as extensive scientific research, in which Marija Pijaca, PhD examines legal aspects of the bareboat charter in accordance with the provisions of BIMCO form BARECON 2001.

The volume furthermore includes Croatian court decision reviews covering the field of the maritime law, with comments and reviews of books written by eminent domestic and foreign experts in the domains of the maritime law and the law of the sea, as well as a review of two exhibitions mounted during this year's Open Days of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The author of this review is Marula Vujasinović, librarian at the Adriatic Institute, who prepared a poster exhibition in honour of Professor Jakaša, and a part of the exhibition on the digital repository of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors for their valuable contributions, as well as the employees of the Adriatic Institute for their dedicated work in preparing this journal.

Editor-in-Chief
Professor Davorin Rudolf
Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts