

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure and honour that we present to you the new issue of the journal *Poredbeno pomorsko pravo* = *Comparative Maritime Law*. This issue immediately stands out for the large number of pages and contributions it features. The reason for this is the special anniversary to which many respected authors wanted to contribute by having their work published in this very issue. With this celebratory issue of the journal, we seek to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Croatian Maritime Law Association.

The founding assembly of the Association was held in December 1991 at the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Rijeka, but it is worth noting the continuity of the professional association of Croatian maritime lawyers ever since 1924, when the Maritime Law Association of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was founded with its seat in Zagreb, and after the Second World War, in 1954, with the establishment of the Yugoslav Association for Maritime Law with headquarters in Rijeka. We published a contribution by Professor Dragan Bolanča, PhD, and Assistant Professor Igor Vio, PhD, on the history of the Association on the eve of its thirtieth anniversary in the last issue of the journal, so readers who wish to recall in more detail all the great names and moments from the history of the Association are referred to vol. 60, issue 175 of *Poredbeno pomorsko pravo* = *Comparative Maritime Law* (pp. 249-257). The Association was founded in order to bring together scientists and experts with the aim of studying and promoting maritime law. It is the organiser and co-organiser of many domestic and international scientific and professional events and consultations, advocating the principles and general interests of the maritime legal profession and science in the procedures of drafting national maritime legislation and deciding on accession to or ratification of international treaties in the field of maritime law and international law of the sea. It is a full member of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) in whose projects it has always been very actively engaged. The fruit of such activities is certainly the scientific and professional articles by local and foreign authors that have enriched the previous issues of this journal, as well as the issue that is now in front of you.

This issue of the journal contains twenty-four papers, including ten original scientific papers, ten review articles, four professional papers, reviews of three books, one report and one obituary. Among the many authors are world-renowned names in the field of maritime law, including honorary members of the Association, Professor Časlav Pejović, PhD (Japan), Atty Giorgio Berlingieri

(Italy), Dr Ann Fennech (Malta), Professor Erik Røsæg, LLD (Norway), and Professor Emeritus D. Rhidian Thomas (Great Britain). All the authors who kindly responded to our invitation to participate in the current issue of *Poredbeno pomorsko pravo = Comparative Maritime Law*, dedicated to the Association's thirtieth anniversary, made their extremely valuable contribution by dealing with topics in the field of maritime and general transport law and international law of the sea, thus promoting this beautiful and celebratory occasion.

The respective topics are covered from a current, as well as historical point of view.

As for the current topics covered in this issue, those related to the international effects of the judicial sale of ships should certainly be highlighted. In June of this year, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) approved the final text of the Draft Convention on the International Effects of the Judicial Sale of Ships and submitted it to the United Nations General Assembly with a recommendation for its adoption. This internationally important subject of maritime law is covered by two papers written by Petar Kragić, PhD (*Draft Convention on the Judicial Sale of Ships: A Chance for the Revolutionary Use of the Internet for Notification and other Issues*) and Professor Juan Pablo Rodríguez Delgado, PhD (*The Scope of Application of the UNCITRAL Instrument on the Judicial Sale of Ships*). Both authors participated in the drafting of the Convention as delegates to UNCITRAL's Working Group VI on the judicial sale of ships. The entire historical background and the overview of the process of drafting and adopting the text of the Draft Convention is presented in detail by Dr Ann Fennech, Vice-president of CMI and CMI's coordinator of UNCITRAL's Working Group VI on the judicial sale of ships, in her Report titled *Draft Convention on the International Effects of the Judicial Sale of Ships*.

In addition, a very wide range of maritime law topics are covered in the papers written in English by the following authors: Professor Emeritus D. Rhidian Thomas (*Contemporary Developments in Global Limitation of Liability of Shipowners and Others*); Professor Časlav Pejović, PhD (*Blockchain Bills of Lading: A New Generation of Electronic Transport Documents*); Atty Giorgio Berlingieri (*The Italian Supreme Court of Cassation Denies the Entitlement of Pilots to Salvage Remuneration*); Associate Professor Mišo Mudrić, PhD and Fausto Ferreira, PhD (*Autonomous Surface Vessels and COLREGs: Considering the Amendments*); Marija Pospišil, PhD (*The Impact of CMA CGM Libra on the Allocation of Risk in a Maritime Adventure*); Francisco Torres Pérez, PhD, and Sara Louredo Casado, PhD (*Advantages and Challenges of Intellectual Property Rights Related to the Shipbuilding Process*); and Vesna Polić Foglar, PhD (*Carriage of Goods in Swiss Maritime Law*).

Equally important maritime law issues are covered in the papers written in Croatian by the following authors: Vesna Skorupan Wolff, PhD, and Associate Professor Adriana Vincenca Padovan, PhD (*Is a Berthed Boat an Inherently Dangerous Object, and the Business of a Marina Operator an Inherently Dangerous Activity?*); Božena Bulum, PhD (*Corporate Taxation of Port Authorities: The Practice of European Union Institutions and the Croatian Legal Framework*); Assistant Professor Igor Vio, PhD (*Legal Framework of the Shipowner's Liability for the Death and Personal Injury of a Crew Member in Anglo-American Maritime Law*); Assistant Professor Marija Pijaca, PhD (*Legal Regulation of the Navigation Period of Teachers in the Maritime Profession During Employment at an MHE Institution*); Irena Nišević, LL.M. (*Applicable Law for Maritime Liens and Open Registries*); and Associate Professor Goran Vojković, PhD (*Determining the Boundary of the Maritime Domain de Lege Lata and de Lege Ferenda*).

Furthermore, the paper titled *Pushbacks of Migrants in the Mediterranean: Reconciling Border Control Measures and the Obligation to Protect Human Rights* by Associate Professor Petra Perišić, PhD, and Paulina Ostojić, LL.M., deals with complex legal issues in the field of international law of the sea and international protection of human rights.

The importance of establishing an appropriate legal framework for marine environmental protection from various sources of pollution is emphasised in the papers written by Professor Erik Røsæg, LL.D. (*GHG Emissions from International Shipping*); Associate Professor Biljana Činčurak Erceg, PhD (*Problems of the Legal (Non)regulation of (Micro)plastics in the Marine and River Environment*); Atty Giuseppe Duca, Atty Paola d'Alberton and Mitja Grbec, PhD (*The "Green Hull" Project*) and Professor Dorotea Ćorić, PhD, Associate Professor Iva Tuhtan Grgić, PhD, and Associate Professor Gordan Stanković, PhD (*Compensation for Environmental Damage in the Case of Ship Source Marine Pollution: The Croatian Legal Framework*).

In this issue, current legal issues from general transport law are covered by Professor Jasenko Marin, PhD (*Protection of Package Travellers' Rights During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for the Future*); Professor Nikoleta Radionov, PhD, and Associate Professor Adriana Vincenca Padovan, PhD (*The Sender's and Carrier's Obligations Concerning Customs and Other Formalities According to the CMR Convention*); and Associate Professor Shengnan Jia, PhD (*The Legal Nature of a Bill of Lading Issued by the China-Europe Railway Express: The Chinese Perspective*).

This issue of the journal also features one paper dealing with a topic of maritime law from a historical perspective by Ante Vuković, PhD, under the title *Territorial and Subject-Matter Jurisdiction of the Directorate for Maritime Transport in Split*.

All scientific and professional papers published in this issue went through the procedure of double anonymous international peer review, and as many as thirty-one reviewers made a great contribution to the success of this issue. As some reviewers evaluated more than one paper, a total of fifty-one reviews were prepared. Among the reviewers are world-renowned leading scientists and professors in the field of maritime law. Due to the anonymity of the process, we cannot mention their names here, but we hereby express our immense gratitude to all reviewers for the dedication, diligence and analytical approach with which they approached the evaluation of the papers and thus significantly contributed to their final quality.

In addition to scientific and professional papers, this issue also contains reviews of three books. These are respectively the book *Transport Documents in Carriage of Goods by Sea: International Law and Practice* by Časlav Pejović, the book *Protecting & Indemnity (P&I) Insurance and Compulsory Insurance under International Maritime Conventions* by Marija Pospišil, and the book *Insurance Law* by Marko Pavliha; Jernej Veberič; Dejan Srša and Milan Gobec. Each of these books presents the legal arrangement of the matter it deals with in a clear and systematic manner. The authors offer their readers broad legal knowledge and enable them to better understand the issues they consider.

Finally, in this issue, with deep respect and gratitude, we say our last goodbye to Professor Emeritus Vladimir-Đuro Degan, the long-standing director of the Adriatic Institute. In the obituary prepared by Božena Bulum, PhD, we remember his immense contribution to the discipline of international law, to which he dedicated his entire professional and private life.

We sincerely thank all the authors who readily responded to the Association's invitation to submit papers for this celebratory issue of the journal. We are equally grateful to the respected reviewers and editors, without whose knowledge and diligence it would not have been possible to publish such an extensive issue. The successful cooperation so far and the achieved results encourage us to continue striving for excellence in scientific work. We believe that in this way we continue to achieve the goals that the founders of the Association had in mind.

Professor Jakša Barbić, Editor-in-Chief