



## COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL, AISBL

### PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the Colloquium in Rotterdam on the Rotterdam Rules under the auspices of UNCITRAL and the CMI. The presentations on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly and Partly by Sea will be made to you by highly qualified and distinguished individuals from around the World. We thank them for their participation and feel confident that you will be enriched by the experience.

The CMI was established in 1897 and is the oldest international organization concerned exclusively with maritime law and related commercial practice. Our mandate is to strive for the unification of maritime law globally and this is why we are proud to have been involved in the original drafts of what eventually became the Rotterdam Rules, and in participating so actively in the UNCITRAL Working Group, resulting in the Convention being approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 11, 2008.

We are excited that the Signing Ceremony will take place on September 23, 2009 in Rotterdam, one of the World's great Ports and the home to our very active Maritime Law Association of the Netherlands.

The organizing committee has arranged an excellent programme, work and social, and I thank them very much for their efforts. The CMI welcomes you wholeheartedly and I personally look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones over the coming days.

Karl-Johan Gombrii,  
President, CMI



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