



February 4, 2010

**THE SLOVENIAN TRIBUTE
TO FRANCESCO BERLINGIERI**

Dear Francesco,

I have planned enthusiastically to attend the presentation of essays in your honor but I am now very sorry to inform you that I will not be able to travel to Genova. To my great disappointment and embarrassment I have completely forgotten that I am due for a traditional one week skiing with my family, leaving early in the morning of Saturday, February 20, 2010.

I humbly ask you to forgive my absence at the ceremony and lunch next day and I apologize from the bottom of my heart.

However, I am pleased to note that there will be present two brilliant representatives of the Maritime Law Association of Slovenia and my colleagues at the university, both fluent in Italian: Dr. Boris Jerman, our Secretary-General and my former doctoral student, as well as my assistant Miss Jana Rodica, LL.M., who was one of the best postgraduate students at IMO IMLI in 2008/2009.

It is amazing to realize, my dear friend Francesco, how the time flies. Believe it or not, we met for the first time more than fifteen years ago upon the foundation of an independent Slovenian maritime law association and its newly born membership of the Comité Maritime International (CMI). You have been always our role model and ideal embodiment of unbelievably rich practical experience and extremely broad theoretical knowledge. Your original and well thought ideas, hard work, lucid observations, professional influence and eternal zeal have indeed made you an unique "*Jacques-Yves Cousteau of international maritime law*".

You are more than well known worldwide, not only as an Italian maritime lawyer from Genoa but also as a great teacher at various institutions in Italy and abroad, for example at Genoa University, Tulane University in the United States and IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta. Admirably, you were awarded honorary degrees by the universities of Bologna, Antwerp and Athens. Between 1976 and 1991 you were President of the CMI and presently you hold an *ad honorem* President status.

Amongst other things, you are an honorary member of the Order of the British Empire, a former member of the Commercial Court Committee of the High Court of Justice in London, an honorary member of the Canadian Bar Association, of the British Maritime Law Association, as well as of the Italian Maritime Law

Association. In addition, you are the Editor of the CMI Publications, Editor of *Il Diritto Marittimo*, the correspondent in Italy for *Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly* and the author of many books and articles in Italian, English and French.

The list of your impressive achievements goes on and on and we, your Slovenian friends, are tremendously proud of you. We have established a close and fruitful relationship between the Italian and Slovenian maritime law associations and will continue working on joint projects, especially thanks to you and Giorgio.

Dear Francesco, let me conclude this little letter with our congratulations and warmest wishes for many healthy and creative years to come.

Yours ever,

Marko Pavliha
President