
Global Marine Investigators - GMI

BY-LAWS

Article I. Organisation and Objectives

Section 1.01 Name, Legal Frame and Seat

This organisation will be known as the "**Global Marine Investigators - GMI**" and hereafter referred to as "**GMI**".

The legal frame of the organisation is an association formed according to Dutch Law with the association number of 14566/SB.

The association's seat is

Steenvliet 6, 4191TZ Geldermalsen, The Netherlands

And its Tax Number is NL858440787B01

Section 1.02 Objectives

The association's objectives are to provide professional training and networking on strictly non-profit basis.

- Provide a platform in order to unite those persons and agencies eligible for membership as specified under Article II.
- Promote the prevention and suppression of marine crime including cross-border violations, cargo crime, piracy, smuggling, trafficking, terrorism and theft of marine property, and more.
- Develop certification programs for marine investigators.
- Provide a forum for the information exchange of marine investigation and related investigative activities and other topics of interest within the frame of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Provide training for marine investigation, vessel safety and accident prevention and environmental protection.
- Promote mutual cooperation between law enforcement agencies, investigators, marine organizations, associated industries and associations with similar objectives.
- Develop and disseminate educational materials to conduct marine investigations.
- Develop projects to alleviate issues interfering with the administration of justice.

Section 1.03 **Language**

GMI's common language is English. Thus official correspondence and files will be kept in English.

Article II. Membership

Section 2.01 **Joining Procedure**

GMI is open to members from Law Enforcement and Non-Law Enforcement regardless of country.

An application should – where possible – be sponsored by a member in good standing or, alternatively, could be directed to the SC, “Steering Committee”, see Article IV.

Membership is subject to approval by the SC, see Article IV.

Section 2.02 **Application for Membership**

All applications for membership shall be submitted to the SC, see Article IV.

Section 2.03 **Law Enforcement Membership**

The Law Enforcement Membership is available to the representatives of the municipal, county, state, federal, national, or international law enforcement agencies - like the police force, coast guard, border guard, customs, and similar. Nautically orientated governmental agencies (like vessel registering officials, titling authorities and similar) are also eligible.

Section 2.04 **Non-Law Enforcement Membership**

All other applicants not covered under Section 2.02, in particular, but not exclusively, private marine investigators, surveyors, insurance investigators and marine industry representatives as well as retired law enforcement officers, will be eligible for a Non-Law Enforcement Membership.

Section 2.05 **Agency Membership**

Parent agencies of those memberships as defined in Section 2.03 will be eligible for Law Enforcement Agency Membership.

Parent agencies/companies of those memberships as defined in Section 2.04 will be eligible for Non-Law Enforcement Membership.

Section 2.06 **Lifetime Membership**

Few Lifetime Membership positions are available to be granted by the SC, see Article IV, to those members who have been exceptional contributors to the association over extended time. Lifetime members are exempted from membership dues.

Section 2.07 **Dues**

Membership dues will be determined by the SC, see Article IV.

Members who have paid their dues are considered "current" members "in good standing". With members who are delinquent in their dues, the membership will be considered terminated by voluntary withdrawal.

Section 2.08 **Termination**

A GMI Membership will be terminated by voluntary withdrawal or a decision of the SC, see Article IV, should a member exhibit conduct inconsistent with the objectives of GMI.

Article III. Annual General Members' Meeting (AGM)

Section 3.01 **Purpose**

The AGM is the platform where the SC, see Article IV, accounts for its activities in the past twelve (12) months.

The AGM is the main platform where the membership may and should express their future expectations from GMI.

Section 3.02 **Timing**

The AGM shall be held during the Annual Conference, the date of which will be announced at least three (3) months prior to its meeting.

Section 3.03 **Headings of the AGM**

The AGM must include the below actions:

- Counting of voting Members.
- Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM
- Report from the SC, see Article IV, about the last twelve (12) Months
- Reports from other committees, work groups, etc, if any.
- Financial Statements by the Treasurers, see Article IV.
- Report of the Cash Auditor, see Article VI.
- Discharge of the SC, see Article IV.
- Approval of current resolutions, and any other issues concerning GMI
- Election of the SC, see Article IV.
- Election of the Cash Auditor, see Article VI.
- Announcement of the location and date of the next AGM

Further headings may be added as required.

It will be the responsibility of the Secretary, see Article IV, to take minutes at the AGM.

Section 3.04 **Elections**

Only those members present at the AGM and in good standing will be allowed to vote. Each voting member will have one vote.

Agencies, regardless of the number of members and the number of attending members, will have one vote as well.

Each voting member may vote on behalf of one and only one further member in good standing, the principal, by proxy – a written authorization of the principal.

Any issue, resolution etc. put to a vote will be decided by a show of hands. A secret ballot may be resorted to if requested at least by one present member.

Section 3.05 **Extraordinary General Members Meeting**

An extraordinary General Members Meeting may be called in by unanimous decision of the SC, see Article IV. Invitation to this meeting shall be sent out to the membership at least two months prior to the extraordinary meeting and be accompanied by its agenda.

Article IV. The Steering Committee- SC

Only members in good standing may apply, and are encouraged to do so, for office in the Steering Committee.

Five members will be elected as the SC at the AGM for a term of three (3) years.

The elected SC will make the following appointments out of its members.

- a Chairperson,
- a Vice Chairperson,
- a Secretary,
- a Treasurer,
- a Sponsors' Liaison Officer.

Excluding the offices of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, the rest of the appointments may be assumed, in any combination, by one member of the SC only.

The Chairperson will be confirmed by the vote of the Membership at the AGM.

At the end of each term any SC officer may stand for re-election if endorsed by the SC.

A member of the SC may resign from office at any time. In such event, the remaining members of the SC may decide, by 2/3 of majority vote, for a temporary replacement of the resigning officer out of the members in good standing. The new officer will remain in office for the rest of the duration of the current SC term and the temporary replacement will never exceed the original term of three (3) years.



The SC should - whenever possible - consist of at least two Law-Enforcement members. In the event that no Law-Enforcement members will stand for election, the AGM may elect non Law-Enforcement members for the SC.

Section 4.01 Meetings of the SC

The SC will have at least two meetings every year. One of these may be scheduled at the Annual Conference, see Section 9.01. The second should be planned during the first months of the calendar year following the last Annual Conference, see Section 9.01.

Article V. Duties of the Officers in the SC

Section 5.01 Duties of the Chairperson

The Chairperson is the presiding officer of GMI and represents the organization. As such he/she is responsible for the direction and co-ordination of the SC to follow the objectives of GMI as outlined in Section 1.02. He/she will preside at the AGM and the Annual Conference.

Section 5.02 Duties of the Vice Chairperson

The Vice Chairperson supports the Chairperson in his/her duties.

In the absence of, or in the event the Chairperson is unable to perform the required duties, the Vice Chairperson shall assume the authority and responsibilities of the Chairperson of GMI as outlined in Section 5.01.

Section 5.03 Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial management of GMI. He/she presents a financial report during the AGM. See Section 3.03.

Section 5.01 Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for the administrative duties like data maintenance, keeping agreements etc. current, and for record keeping.

Section 5.02 Duties of the Sponsors' Liaison Officer

The Sponsors' Liaison Officer is responsible to introduce GMI to potential sponsors and to encourage them to sponsor GMI's activities.

Article VI. The Auditor

Section 6.01 Election and Duties

An auditor will be elected at the AGM in order to audit the financial report, supplied by the Treasurer for the following term.

Article VII. Members' Conduct Committee - MCC

Section 7.01 The Purpose of the MCC

The MCC is a standing committee and will exist to examine evidence and adjudicate upon any enquiry pertaining to members' conduct.

Section 7.02 MCC Officers

The MCC will consist of five members, three senior members (more than ten (10) years of membership of GMI or IAMI Europe), one nominated sponsor representative and one regular member.

Initially, the three senior members and the one nominated sponsor representative will nominate the fifth member.

Starting at the AGM in October 2018 and then bi-annually, the SC will select, in random manner, a member in good standing out of the participating members of the AGM. The SC will present this nominated member to the above four members of the MCC.

Starting at the AGM in 2020, any sponsor, regardless of personally being a member of GMI, or not, may volunteer for becoming a sponsor representative. The AGM will endorse the applicant/one of the applicants for further twenty-four (24) months as a sponsor representative.

Should one of the Committee members wish to retire or get into a position of prejudice due to an upcoming Enquiry, or should the general membership, by 2/3 of majority vote, wish to replace a Committee member, then the SC will propose a suitable temporary replacement. The proposed member's name will be circulated by the Secretary to all members in good standing. The replacement of a Committee member claiming prejudice is a suspension for the subject Enquiry only.

Article VIII. The immediate past Chairperson

Section 8.01 Duties of the Past Chairperson

The immediate Past Chairperson acts as a consultant to the current SC and remains a non-voting member of the SC for a term of three (3) years and shall contribute to the continuity of the association and support the acting SC in its objectives.

Article IX. Activities of the Association

Section 9.01 Annual Conference

Every year a traditional main training and networking event is held.

The location of the conference shall be chosen with the practical access of the attendees in mind. If possible the location of the conference will alternate within Europe and its surroundings to enable as many Members as possible to attend.



As per its objectives, GMI strives to develop and provide high levels of training to its members and to the non-members of the community.

The annual conference will provide training in issues related to the objectives of the organisation while creating and deepening the trust and bond of the participants.

Some topics covered are:

- Marine theft and recovery
- Hull and equipment serial number fraud
- Accident reconstruction
- Fire/arson investigation
- Investigation of sunken vessels
- Invoicing frauds
- Intelligence management
- Bank and insurance fraud investigations
- Updates on regulations and policies
- Admiralty law
- Cooperation with Interpol

The Secretary will issue for each conference delegate an Attendance Certificate, indicating the hours of training attended.

The AGM is held during the Annual Conference.

Section 9.02 In depth Training

GMI offers “hands on” – “in depth” training with the purpose to further in-depth knowledge of members in fields concurring with the purpose of the association.

Section 9.03 Certification Program

The SC may work towards certification projects for members concurring with the purpose of the association.

The CMI – Certified Marine Investigator Plan is a certification program ensuring that the title holder has qualifications in various aspects of marine investigation - among others, in marine terminology, fire investigation, forensic photography, investigative techniques, admiralty law and insurance fraud.

The aim is to document a certain level of qualification. Hence, GMI accepts IAMI Inc’s certificates.

Section 9.04 Further projects for Training, Certification and Networking

The SC may design and implement further projects concurring with the purpose of the association.



Article X. Finances and Administration

Section 10.01 GMI General Finance

GMI is a non-profit organization and as such all funding must be appropriated to the objectives as stated in Section 1.02 or to further the development of GMI.

GMI accepts sponsorship as long as it does not interfere with the association's objectives as per Section 1.02.

Members contribute work and time on a voluntary basis only. GMI does not pay salaries or wages to any of its members.

The Treasurer may reimburse the SC members' claimed reasonable expenses on a case to case basis.

Section 10.02 Accounts

GMI funding will be located in one account in Euro. If required by the daily business, accounts in national currencies may be established by the SC.

Prior to the annual conference a temporary conference account may be established for administrative purposes only in the country where the conference is to be held. All funding in this account shall be transferred to the main GMI account after the final balance is settled and within reasonable time.

All member fees shall be deposited to the main GMI account in Euro free of expenses.

The Chairman and the Treasurer will have access to the account and are allowed to individually sign for bank transactions on behalf of GMI.

Section 10.03 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year spans the period from January 1st of each calendar year through December 31st of the same calendar year.

Section 10.04 Termination of the Association

If need arises, GMI will be terminated by 2/3 of majority vote at an AGM or an Extraordinary General meeting. Balance of funds, after all expenses have been settled, will go towards a suitable non-profit charity selected by the SC.



Article XI. Provisional Article

These provisional GMI By-Laws is based on the by-laws as approved by the former "IAMI Europe"s AGM on October 2017 in Athens. They have been devised by the SC in office at the time of the forming of the GMI to remain in effect until discussed in detail and a final form is approved by the membership at the AGM planned for October 2019 in Travemünde. This text is a working reference leading towards that AGM.

Dr. Yusuf Civelekoğlu, CMI, Chairperson – Global Marine Investigators, on behalf of the Steering Committee GMI

