



# IUMI

## International Union of Marine Insurance

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### **Annex 1**

to the  
Meeting Minutes  
Council Meeting Bruges – September 2009

### **The President's Sunday Welcome**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

My dear friends, a very warm welcome to the historic and beautiful city of Bruges. Today an important UNESCO World Heritage site, the history of Bruges began more than 2000 years ago with Gallic-Roman settlements on the very site where we gather for this evening's opening reception. The city of Bruges was a meeting place for international traders and merchants before the time of Christ. Thanks to its port Bruges was a city of significant economic importance and by the 11<sup>th</sup> century was referred to as the "chief commercial city of the world."

The center of the city boasted a population of between 40,000 and 45,000 inhabitants, double the present-day number in the historic inner city. In the fourteenth century Bruges had become a rich international port city and merchants from northern and southern Europe came together here using Bruges brokers to transact their business. It is significant that in Bruges at that time there were already real bankers in operation, both natives of Belgium and Italy. Merchants could open a current account here, transfer large sums, change money and even pay with notes. Fortunately for them credit default swaps had not yet come into vogue!

Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Bruges has also been known throughout the world as a city of art and a tourist centre. Bruges monuments, museums and particularly the unspoiled historic cityscape attract many, many thousands of visitors every year.

But the history of Bruges is not without its challenges. During the 11th century the city's natural connection to the sea silted up and a storm in 1134 changed the appearance of the



coastal plain forever, requiring the building of a canal and the use of a number of out ports and centuries later the building of the port of Zeebrugge.

The history of Bruges was also shaped by revolts, epidemics, political unrest and war. Bruges had numerous periods of boom and bust throughout its rich history and successfully navigated all of these difficulties making it a very fitting site for the 64<sup>th</sup> international conference since 1946 and the 135<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the International Union of Marine Insurance – a conference whose common theme is “Marine Insurance – Mastering Rough Seas.”

I know all of you will join me in thanking Norbert Nelen, this year’s president, and the other members of the Royal Belgian Marine Insurance Association for inviting IUMI to Bruges and for making all those attending this year’s conference so very welcome in this fairytale city.

This is the fourth time that the Royal Belgian Marine Insurance Association has hosted our annual conference. The first conference was hosted in Knokke in 1952, the second in Brussels in 1971 and the third in Antwerp in 1989. Our gratitude goes out to all of the members of ABAM for generously hosting IUMI for a 4th time.

Special thanks go to our good friend Etienne Haenecour, Chairman of the 2009 Organizing Committee and a member of the IUMI Executive. Etienne attended his first IUMI Conference in 1983 in Florence (twenty six years ago) and he is the second generation of Haenecours to serve on the IUMI Executive Committee as his father Louis Haenecour was a member of the IUMI EC from 1989 to 1992. So IUMI is a family commitment for the Haenecours and I would ask that you all join me in thanking Etienne and his wife Cecile for the time and attention they have dedicated to IUMI 2009.

Hosting an IUMI conference is a significant undertaking and requires a team effort. Etienne Haenecour, Norbert Nelen, Roger Franssen, Rene Deniet, Arlette Aloo and Paul Buyl as well as Lore Tessier and her crew from the event organizer DMS Group are all important contributors to this year’s conference and I would like to ask that you join me in thanking them for all of their hard work and commitment to making this year’s conference a truly unique event.



Our conference officially began this morning with meetings attended by the members of our 8 working committees as well as the executive committee. But it is tonight's spectacular opening reception at the Oud Sint-Jaan Hospital that brings together for the first time our 452 official delegates/underwriters plus 139 accompanying guests from 37 national associations. In addition we are joined this year by 32 guest speakers, 8 affiliate members, 11 representatives of the international press and 16 observers and special guests, bringing our total attendance to over 658 for IUMI 2009.

I am also very pleased to give a special welcome to our many sponsors all of whom are listed in the program booklet. With these friends of IUMI this year's gathering exceeds 700!!

Thank you all ladies and gentlemen for your strong and continuing support of IUMI particularly in these challenging economic times.

I would also like to recognize and welcome all those attending their first IUMI Conference. There are almost 170 first time attendees with us this year! Could I ask our first time attendees to raise your hand so that you may be properly welcomed into the IUMI family?

Welcoming new attendees to our annual conference each year is a very important way to keep our conference energized and focused on the future so we are delighted to have all of you join us and look forward to your active participation.

I would also like to welcome our affiliated members:

FEMAS -- Massimo Canepa, who is also a member of the loss prevention committee

IACS -- Richard Leslie

IGP -- Andrew Bardot, who is also a member of the legal and liability committee

IMCC -- Mike Telford



Intertanko -- Michelle White

CMI – Dr. Dieter Schwampe who is also a member of the legal and liability committee

ICS -- Kiran Kosla

IVR – Theresia Hacksteiner

We are joined this evening by a number of former vice chairmen and one honorary member who I would like to welcome and thank for their many contributions and continued support of IUMI. First the former president:

-- Patrick de la Morinerie, France

We also have a number of Vice Chairmen: Aage Sørensen, Denmark and now a member of the nominating committee; Claudio Campana, Italy; Kees Harland, Netherlands; Simon Beale, Lloyd's; Art Payne of Canada now chairman of the nominating committee and of course head of last year's very successful Vancouver Organizing Committee. It is a great pleasure to have you all here for IUMI 2009.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Royal Belgian Marine Insurance Association and the members of this year's organizing committee have devoted numerous months to making sure that our meeting sessions and our social events will be highly productive and enjoyable and we thank them for all of their efforts on our behalf!

Thank you all for your attention and enjoy the rest of this wonderful evening!

