



**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
FOR  
OPERATIONS IN CONFINED AND SHALLOW WATERS  
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STOCKTON CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW  
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Our Ref.: NU/CSW/2300/LEGAD1/02MAY2024  
TO: See Distribution  
SUBJECT: **Conference on Operational Maritime Law 2024**  
DATE: 15 MAY 2024  
ENCLOSURE: Conference Agenda

1. **Introduction:** We hope you can join us for the 10th Annual Conference on Operational Maritime Law (COML). Following the success of our previous conferences, the Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters - in co-sponsorship with the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College, the University of Basel, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Slovenia - is delighted to gather **military operators, legal experts, members of civil society, and scholars** together in **Ljubljana, Slovenia** from **02-05 September 2024**.

2. **Conference Theme:** “The times change, and we change with them”

3. **Aim:** The Conference on Operational Maritime Law 2024 is designed to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences between naval practitioners and legal experts, to enhance the efficacy of military operations at sea. Through lively discussion and hands-on training, we will examine relevant legal challenges facing the maritime law community and navies across multiple topic areas. This year, we have expanded our Conference Training Program to provide additional learning opportunities for legal advisors and operators to improve their competence through numerous vignettes.

The Conference follows a typical Track-2 level. The Chatham House Rule will apply.

4. **Schedule:** The conference will last from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, through Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (late afternoon closing).

5. **Location:** Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana: Poljanski nasip 2, 1000 Ljubljana, SVN

6. **Participation:** We address legal experts and operators from all services of NATO Members and Partner Nations, EU, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) states, and RIMPAC participating states. We also welcome academic, international organisations, and NGO attendees. You are encouraged to pass this invitation on to anyone who may have an interest in attending.

7. **Topics:**

a. Presentations and discussions will include the following topics:

- **Protection of Critical Infrastructure at Sea**
- **Chinese aggressive behavior in the ECS, Taiwan, and the SCS**
- **Menace in the Red Sea Region**
- **New Developments in Autonomous and Unmanned Systems**
- **Two Capstone Trainings:  
What-if Cases in Indo-Pacific  
Fictional Hybrid Scenarios in the Baltic (Vignettes)**

b. Please see included attachments for a detailed day-by-day breakdown of the agenda.

8. **Accommodation, Transportation, and Expenses:**

a. The conference fee is 100 EUR. It includes coffee and business lunches during the conference (TUE-THU). The conference fee has to be paid with cash (in EUR) during in-processing on the first day of the conference.  
Participants will not incur any additional costs for attending the side events.

b. Hotels and Accommodation

The conference venue is located at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law, in the city center. Each local hotel listed below is within walking distance to the venue. No transportation will be provided to the conference venue. It is recommended that you book with the Grand Plaza Hotel (1).

Local hotels include:

- (1) The Grand Plaza Hotel; Slovenska cesta 60, 1000 Ljubljana  
Use the attached form when booking before 15 July 2024 to receive a special nightly rate.  
Please send the completed form to [spela.zupanc@grandplazahotel.si](mailto:spela.zupanc@grandplazahotel.si)
- (2) The Grand Hotel Union; Miklošičeva cesta 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
- (3) The Hotel Ljubljana; Cankarjevo nabrežje 29, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

c. Transportation from the Grand Plaza Hotel to and from the scheduled Cultural Event will be provided; departure times will be announced in the agenda.

(1) Guests of the Grand Plaza Hotel: Price for taxi transfer to/from the Ljubljana airport is 40 EUR (up to 4 people). Public shuttle service is 11 EUR/person to/from airport. For transfer/shuttle order, please contact: [info@grandplazahotel.si](mailto:info@grandplazahotel.si) or [reservations@grandplazahotel.si](mailto:reservations@grandplazahotel.si).

9. **Visa:** Participants from countries that require a visa to enter Slovenia must take the appropriate action to obtain an entry visa through their national channels. Military personnel may be required to process an official "Request for Visit" through their national channels. For civilians, the respective national immigration requirements apply.

10. **Classification:** Unclassified, Releasable to Public.

11. **Registration:** All participants are requested to submit their registration application no later than **16 August 2024**. It is recommended to begin the online registration process as soon as possible by requesting your login at the event page on our website using the following direct link: <https://www.coecsw.org/com124/>. Please have a scanned copy of your passport or military ID ready to upload for your registration.

12. **Dress Code:**

- a. Icebreaker: Smart Casual (no jeans, no tie)
- b. Conference: **MIL-** Daily Working Uniform (office), **CIV-** Business Attire
- c. Cultural event: Smart Casual (no jeans, no tie)

13. **Points of Contact: For additional information or clarification, please contact:**

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We thank you in advance for your interest in and support of this event. We look forward to welcoming you in Ljubljana!



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Chair



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It is produced for specific motives with regard to the COE CSW Program of Work and does not necessarily reflect the notions of NATO, University of Basel, SCIL, or the Participating States of COE CSW.

ENCLOSURE: 1. Draft Conference Agenda

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