

**9-10 October 2025 | Strasbourg**

# 17. Mannheimer Tagung für Binnenschifffahrtsrecht

## 17th Mannheim Conference on Inland Navigation Law



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On June 11-12, 1975, the 1st Mannheim Conference on Inland Navigation Law took place in the Rosengarten in Mannheim. The idea of dealing with current problems of inland navigation law at conferences arose from the previously unsuccessful attempt to found an institute for inland navigation law, which was not realized until 1996.

The response to the first conference was remarkable. The great success encouraged a continuation. In the meantime, the conferences on current developments and problems of inland navigation law, which are held every three years, have become a permanent institution.

This year marks a significant milestone in the conference's history. For the first time, the Mannheim Conference will be held in English, broadening its reach to a wider international audience. Hosted in Strasbourg, this special edition is made possible through the collaboration of the University of Mannheim, the CCNR, GBM and IVR.

By expanding its linguistic and geographical scope, the Mannheim Conference reaffirms its commitment to advancing the field of inland navigation law and facilitating global dialogue among key stakeholders.

**For participation in this conference, we will, upon request, issue training certificates in accordance with § 15 FAO for a total of 8 hours for submission to the bar association.**

**Date:**

9-10 October 2025

**Location:**

Palais du Rhin  
1 Pl. de la République, 67000 Strasbourg,  
France

In collaboration with:



# 17. Mannheimer Tagung für Binnenschifffahrtsrecht

## 17th Mannheim Conference on Inland Navigation Law

Donnerstag 9. Oktober 2025 | Thursday 9th October 2025

### Opening Lunch - 12:00

### Conference Opening - 13:15

Welcoming Words from Prof. Dr. Andreas Maurer, Frouwke de Vries, Jörg Rusche, and Dr. Hubert Holland

### General Questions of Inland Navigation Law



13:40 - 14:35

**Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele, Erasmus School of Law (ESL) Rotterdam, Netherlands**

The Evolution in Dutch Collision Law and Practice, since the 19th Century

Prof. Dr. Frank Smeele (b. 1966) holds the chair of Commercial Law at the School of Law of Erasmus University Rotterdam. After graduating in 1991 in both Law and Arts (European Studies) at the University of Amsterdam and obtaining his Doctoral Degree cum laude at Erasmus University Rotterdam in 1998, Frank Smeele joined the Rotterdam Bar with Van Traa Advocaten where he was made partner in 2004. In 2005 he was appointed professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam, where since 2007 he holds his current full-time chair and directs and teaches in the English language LLM-programme Commercial Law, which contains a dedicated track in Maritime & Transport Law. In 2017 Frank was appointed (part-time) Deputy-Justice in the Hague Court of Appeal. Frank Smeele is an active member of the Dutch Transport Law Association, the Comité Maritime International, the IVR and the CMR Advisory Council.

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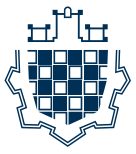
14:35 - 15:30

**Cécile Tournaye, Senior Legal Consultant, France**

The Application of the CLNI in Recent Case Law

Cécile Tournaye is an international and European law expert with over 20 years of experience in inland waterway transport and fisheries. A former legal adviser to the CCNR and now a consultant to public institutions and international organizations, she brings strategic legal insight in complex, multilingual environments. She is admitted to both the New York and Paris Bars.





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Donnerstag 09. Oktober 2025 | Thursday 09th October 2025

## Coffee Break - 15:30



16:10 - 17:05

**Dr. Dr. Jan Lüsing, Wheelhouse Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB, Germany**

Blocked Waterways - The Legal Situation of Third Parties Affected

Jan Lüsing has been working as a lawyer in the field of maritime and inland shipping law since 2012. He is a bar-certified specialist for international commercial law and co-founder of the Hamburg shipping law firm WHEELHOUSE. Jan Lüsing holds a doctorate in law (University of Frankfurt) and a doctorate in linguistics (University of Trier).



17:05 - 18:00

**Dr. Vesna Polić Foglar, gbf Attorneys-at-law Ltd, Switzerland**

Switzerland and the Carriage of Goods on the River Rhine

Vesna Polić Foglar specialises in Swiss transport law and the international carriage of goods. She has particular experience in the liability of carriers (sea, inland waterways and road) for damage to cargo and delay in delivery, as well as in the field of transport insurance and the handling of transport claims.



End Day 1 - 18:00

Conference Dinner - 19:30



# 17. Mannheimer Tagung für Binnenschifffahrtsrecht

## 17th Mannheim Conference on Inland Navigation Law

Freitag, 10. Oktober 2025 | Friday 10th October 2025

### Arrest in Inland Vessels



09:00 - 10:20

**Dr. Moritz Fischer, Fischer Rechtsanwälte, Germany**

The Arrest in Inland Waterway Vessels - the German Perspective

Dr. Moritz Fischer is a lawyer specialising in inland navigation law. He studied with a focus on European law and international business law and obtained his doctorate with a thesis on European antitrust law. He advises national and international clients on all aspects of transport law.

FISCHER

RECHTSANWÄLTE



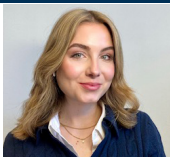
09:00 - 10:20

**Daan Komen, Maritime lawyer, Netherlands**

The Arrest in Inland Waterway Vessels - the Dutch Perspective

Daan Komen is a Dutch litigation specialist, whose practice encompasses dry and wet shipping matters. He frequently acts for shipowners, terminal operators, carriers, freight forwarders, cargo interests and their insurers.

### Sustainability in Inland Navigation



10:20 - 11:00

**Dipl. Jur. Sophie Staron, LL.B., University of Mannheim, Germany**

Safety and Inclusion on Board - Gender and Diversity Perspectives in European Inland Navigation Law

Sophie Staron holds a degree in law and is a research assistant at the Chair of Civil Law with a focus on transport law at the University of Mannheim under Prof. Dr Andreas Maurer, LL.M. (Osgoode). As editor of the specialist journal Logistik & Recht (LogR), she works with practitioners and transport law experts on the important topics of the logistics industry and their legal implications. As an ambassador for the EU initiative #DiversityInTransport, she is also committed to promoting equality for all genders, minorities and age groups in the transport industry.



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Freitag, 10. Oktober 2025 | Friday 10th October 2025

## Coffee Break - 11:00



11:30 - 12:25

**Prof. Dr. Wouter Verheyen, University of Antwerp, Belgium**

Smart Waterways and Platform Logistics: Law as a Catalyst and or a Bottleneck to Sustainable IWT.

Wouter Verheyen is a full professor [Hoogleraar] at the University of Antwerp and a leading expert in ecosystem regulation for transport, mobility and platform logistics. He leads a research group consisting of 12 PhD-researchers and 2 senior researchers, working on projects funded by EU, Flemish and Dutch research agencies and consulting for the European Commission and national governments on legal and policy frameworks for sustainable and efficient logistics. His work bridges legal, operational, and digital perspectives.



University of Antwerp  
Business and Law



12:25 - 13:30

**Prof. Dr. Frank Stevens, LL.M. (Tulane), Erasmus School of Law, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

The Impact of Environmental and Port Regulations

Dr. Frank Stevens obtained his Law Degree from the University of Leuven (Belgium) in 1991. He also holds an LL.M. in Admiralty from Tulane University (1992) and a Doctorate in Law from the University of Ghent (2017). Dr. Stevens joined the Antwerp Bar in 1993, and has been practising transport and maritime law since then. Since 2016, he is an Associate Professor at the Erasmus School of Law in Rotterdam. Dr. Stevens is the author of textbooks on Carriage of Goods by Sea and on Limitation of Liability, and regularly publishes and speaks on issues of transport and maritime law. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for International Trade and Transport Law and is on the Board of Editors of two other legal journals. He is a member of the Belgian and Dutch Maritime Law Associations, and has served as the Belgian MLA's President from 2015 till 2019. He is also a Titulary Member of the CMI, currently serving as the CMI's Treasurer and the Chair of the CMI's Standing Committee on Academics.

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Closing Lunch - 13:30



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[Click here to register](#)

**Early bird participation fee:** €375 excl. VAT

**Participation fee:** €395 excl. VAT

For questions regarding registrations, please contact the IVR Secretariat.

### Contact

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