9-10 October 2025 | Strasbourg

17. Mannheimer Tagung für Binnenschifffahrtsrecht

17th Mannheim Conference on Inland Navigation Law

UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM

CCNR
CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE

GBM

IVR

Programme

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About the Mannheim Conference

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.

About the organisations

University of Mannheim

For generations, the University of Mannheim has been preparing students to take on leadership roles in business, academia, and society.
One of the university's strengths in this task is its profile, which is characterized by the economic and social sciences. It is in these fields that the University of Mannheim has repeatedly been ranked as one of the top 20 European research universities.

CCNR

Dating back to the Congress of Vienna (1815), the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine is the oldest international organisation in modern history. Its legal foundation is the Revised Convention for Navigation on the Rhine - referred to as the Mannheim Act - of 17 October 1868. The Central Commission is an up-to-date international institution with an administration that enables it to address effectively all the issues concerning inland navigation.

GBM

The Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Binnenschiffahrtsrecht an der Universität Mannheim e. V. (GBM) is dedicated to the promotion of projects relating to inland navigation law. The most important project is the support of the Institute for Inland Waterway Law since 1996. Thanks to strong supporters, the Institute was able to merge into the Chair of Civil Law with a focus on transportation law, which was recently founded at the University of Mannheim.

IVR

IVR is the unique international platform on which national organisations of inland navigation, insurance industry and surveyors as well as individual companies and persons from these and related areas such as brokers, lawyers, manufacturers, yards etc. are represented. IVR was initially founded in 1877 by insurance companies and re-established in 1947 with representatives of inland navigation, surveyors and related industries.

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Programme

Thursday, 9 October 2025

Programme

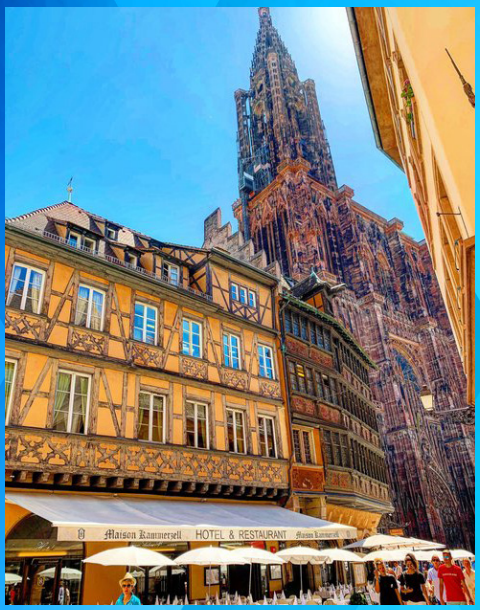
Palais du Rhin

12:00 – 13:15 Opening lunch

13:15 – 18:00 Workshop "General questions of Inland Navigation Law"

Maison Kammerzell

19:00 Conference dinner



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Programme

Friday, 10 October 2025

Programme
Palais du Rhin

09:00 - 10:20	Workshop "Arrest in Inland Vessels"
10:20 - 13:30	Workshop "Sustainability in Inland Navigation"
13:30	Closing lunch

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Workshop

Thursday, 9 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.

Erasmus School of Law

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.

Consulting tournaye

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Workshop

Thursday, 9 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).

Wheelhouse
Kanzlei für Schifffahrtsrecht

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.

gbf Attorneys-at-law Rechtsanwälte Avocats

End Day 1 - 18:00

Conference Dinner - 19:00

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Workshop

Friday, 10 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

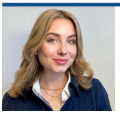
09:00 - 10:20

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 held by 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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Workshop

Friday, 10 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 has been 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 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.

Erasmus School of Law

Closing Lunch - 13:30

Location

Palais du Rhin

1 Pl. de la République, 67000 Strasbourg, France

+33 3 88 15 57 00

https://www.strasbourg.eu/lieu/-/entity/id/686034

Maison Kammerzell

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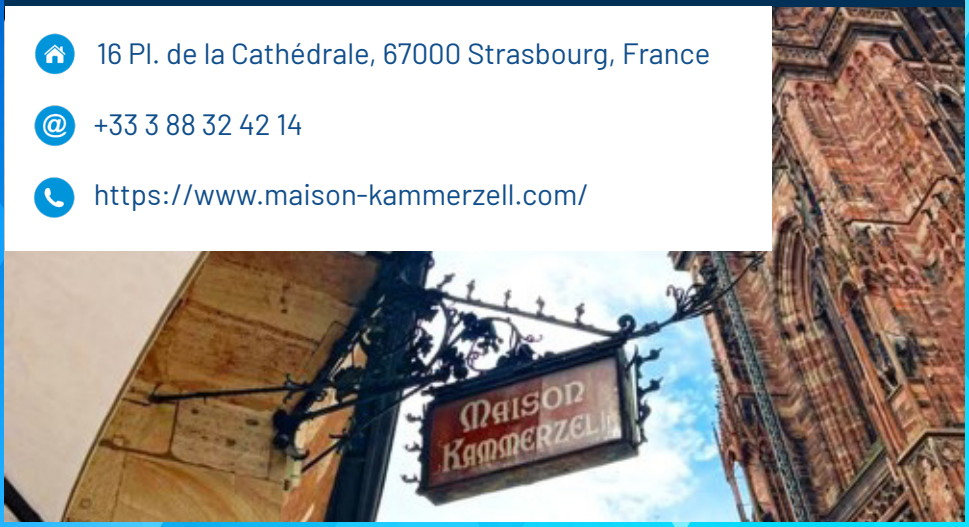
https://www.maison-kammerzell.com/



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Practical information

Training certificate:
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.

Public transport in Strasbourg:
The efficient way to navigate Strasbourg is with public transportation.
Each ticket must be validated before each use of the transport service and each time you board in a vehicle, including when transferring.

For bus journeys, make sure to validate your ticket inside the vehicle using one of the terminals.
For trams and bus journeys on lines G and H, validate your ticket using the terminal at the stop, before entering the vehicle.

All tickets (except Park & Ride tickets) and travel cards can be purchased from the vending machines at tram stations, on lines G and H, and some bus stops. Payment by bank card (no minimum) or cash (coins only, maximum of 20 coins is possible). Or with the CTS app, you can buy, manage and validate your tickets with your smartphone.

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Participants

Name	Organisation
Algama, Shev	The Shipowners' Protection Ltd
Baets, De Paul	Court of Appeal CCNR
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Beelen, Marjan	CITBO
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Braat, Bente	CCNR
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Casademunt, Beatriz	Post & Co (P&I) B.V.
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Delwig-Tiesenhausen von, Max	Haeger & Schmidt Logistics GmbH
Fischer, Dr. Martin	Fischer Rechtsanwälte, Frankfurt
Fischer, Dr. Moritz	Fischer Rechtsanwälte, Frankfurt
Fritz, Daniel	GDV – Gesamtverband der Deutschen Versicherungswirtschaft e.V.
Geerinckx, Nele	DUA Belgium
Groothuis, Axel	Post & Co (P&I) B.V.
Hann, Ralph	Allianz ESA EuroShip GmbH
Hartenstein, Olaf	ASD ARNECKE SIBETH DABLESTEIN
Heijboer, Nils	Dutch P&I
Hemelen Van, Wim	Bettens De Cocker Van Hemelen Advocaten

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Holland, Dr. Hubert	Holland Rechtsanwälte
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Immel, Jakob	Universität Mannheim
Jaegers, Markus	NJP-G Rechtsanwälte Notare
Koch, Ann Kristin	Hermann Firgau Assecuradeur GmbH
Komen, Daan	Maritime lawyer
Kovács, Dr. Zsolt	Gárdos Mosonyi Tomori Law Firm
Krämer, Ulrich	Hermann Firgau Assecuradeur GmbH
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Meyer-Wahl, Nikolaus	Staatliche Rhein-Neckar-Hafengesellschaft Mannheim mbH
Milošević, Filip	Law Office Milosevic
Ooijkaas, Ynke	Caland Advocaten
Overdevest, Martijn	Post & Co (P&I) B.V.

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Staron, Dipl.-Jur. Sophie	University of Mannheim
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Stracke, Laura	Universität Mannheim
Streng, Martine	Merz Schiffsmanagement Gesellschaft S.A.
Thalmann, Roger	gbf Attorneys-at-law Ltd Zurich
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Verheyen, Prof. Dr. Wouter	University of Antwerp
Vries de, Frouwke	IVR

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Wouters, Jan	RELIAS Gerechtsdeurwaarders
Zuethem van, Jan	Van Zuethem Advocaten

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