



## **PRESENTAZIONE DEL VOLUME**

(a cura dell'autore o del curatore)

### **Informazioni generali**

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### **Informazioni sul volume**

This book contains the essays resulting from the proceedings of the V AssIDMER (Association Internationale du Droit de la Mer) International Symposium on "International Law and Maritime Governance. Current Issues and Challenges for Regional Economic Integration Organizations", which was held in Venice, Italy on 20-21 November 2014.

The symposium was co-hosted by "Cà Foscari" University of Venice together with the Italian Navy Staff College. The Venice Port Authority and EIUC have supported this initiative and many distinguished colleagues have joined us from all over the world.

There is no doubt that, at the dawn of the third millennium, the character of the sea is changing, especially in the Mediterranean area. From being an open space where freedom was the norm, the sea has become a common good to be shared by humanity. The sea is vast but fragile. From economic relations to human rights, from security to safety, States and, today, even the European Union, share responsibilities for "their waters" however vast it may be. Meeting such responsibilities requires a span of maritime services capable of enforcing national and EU law on the sea and contributing to the enforcement of International Law beyond them. It is in the interests of the entire global community to contribute to this common responsibility whether individually or in coalition.

Governance at sea can be achieved in different ways and States distribute responsibilities differently between police, border guards, coast guards and navies. But the open, dynamic nature of the sea itself means that no single State or service can deliver effective security in isolation, so the international community has no choice but to cooperate if good governance is to be delivered at sea.

In an attempt to address those main issues, the symposium was articulated around three main perspectives, corresponding to its three sessions.

The first perspective is that of the sea as a resource. Fishing has been a human food source since time immemorial: a blessing when there is sustainable stewardship and a threat when overexploited. The sea's hydrocarbon and mineral resources as well as its fisheries have been widely exploited at sea and new technology has enabled further exploration at greater depths and in more demanding environments such as the Atlantic and the Arctic. But there are associated threats some direct like spills, toxic waste discharge and illegal tank cleaning at sea, or indirect ones such as alien species imported in ballast water or on hulls and nutrient run-off.

The second perspective is to understand and respect the sea as a human habitat: it is the largest component of our common environment. Today 70% of the world's population lives in coastal regions. Immigration and human rights are therefore critical issues both for coastal states, such as Italy, and the European Union.

The third perspective is that of the sea as a highway providing the most efficient form of transport. It is crucial to national and international trade and so the right balance has to be found between regulation and freedom of navigation. Hence, the importance to cross blue economy and regional economic policy issues.

In conclusion, this symposium has considered challenges and opportunities for the European Union related to the sea, including concomitant risks and threats. It has been an opportunity to assess how huge and valuable global commons like the sea entail global responsibility. The further development and protection of the sea urgently needs regional and worldwide regulation and a global maritime governance regime before the intrinsic value of those commons is lost, perhaps forever.

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