



IMPA POLICY ON THE USE OF REDUCED TERMS OF OFFICE FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Background

The International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA) is a not-for-profit professional technical body in consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1973.

Members elect Executive Officers during the biennial General Assembly. The conduct of elections is addressed in Article 8 of the IMPA Constitution.

Article 8.2 states:

“The President, Senior Vice-President and five Vice-Presidents shall each be elected at a General Assembly for a 4-year term of office.”

The purpose of Article 8.2 is to state the term of office of Executive Officers.

Article 8.3 states:

“On completion of a 4-year term of office, the President, Senior Vice-President and the two Vice-Presidents completing their 4-year terms of office shall stand down and a President, Senior Vice-President and two Vice-Presidents shall be elected. At the following General Assembly, the three Vice-Presidents longest in office shall stand down and 3 Vice- Presidents shall be elected.”

The purpose of Article 8.3 is to provide a degree of continuity which supports the efficient running of the Association, the retention and transfer of corporate knowledge, and informed oversight of the Secretariat and work of the Association. The intent of Article 8.3 is illustrated in Figure 1.

Executive Officer	1	GA	3	GA	5	GA	7	GA	9	GA
President	█		█		█		█		█	
SVP	█		█		█		█		█	
VP	█		█		█		█		█	
VP	█		█		█		█		█	
VP	█		█		█		█		█	
VP	█		█		█		█		█	
VP	█		█		█		█		█	

Figure 1: The intent of Article 8.3 and the maintenance of partial continuity

Experience has demonstrated that in case of a delay to a biennial General Assembly or following the resignation of an Executive Officer during their four-year term, strict application of Article 8.2 results in the situations illustrated in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Figure 2 shows the impact of a delay in holding a General Assembly and the subsequent standing down of all Executive Officers simultaneously. This contradicts the principle of continuity in Article 8.3.

Figure 3 shows the impact of the resignation of one or more Executive Officers and the subsequent possibility of more than the constitutional maximum number (four as provided for in Article 8.3) of Executive Officers changing at the next General Assembly.



Executive Officer	1	GA	3	GA	5	GA	7	GA	9	GA
President										
SVP										
VP										
VP										
VP										
VP										
VP										

Figure 2: The impact of the conflict between Article 8.2 and Article 8.3 and the loss of partial continuity. All Executive Officers need to stand down at once, ahead of an election, due to an event that delayed the holding of a General Assembly by two years. The dotted red line shows the extended term of office.

Executive Officer	1	GA	3	GA	5	GA	7	GA	9	GA
President										
SVP										
VP										
VP										
VP										
VP										
VP										

Figure 3: The impact of the conflict between Article 8.2 and Article 8.3 and the loss of partial continuity. Resignation of one or more Executive Offices and a subsequent election of a new Executive Officer for a 4-year term. The red square indicates the year of resignation.

This policy shall guide the Executive Committee in considering the appropriate application of Article 8.2 of the Constitution in the event of a delay to a biennial General Assembly or following the resignation of an incumbent Executive Officer during their four-year term.

Policy

1. Article 8.3 serves to support the proper functioning of the Association by limiting the total number of Executive Officers, which may change at any General Assembly, and therefore has primacy over Article 8.2, which sets a limit on the term of office of individual Executive Officers when a conflict between the two Articles exists.
2. Following the resignation of an incumbent Executive Officer, Article 8.2 shall not apply to the Executive Officer elected to replace them. The Executive Officer elected to replace an incumbent Executive Officer who has resigned shall be deemed to be the Executive Officer elected by the least number of votes by Members at the next General Assembly, and their first term is not to exceed two consecutive General Assemblies.
3. Following a delay to the holding of a General Assembly, Article 8.2 shall not apply to the terms of office of the three Vice Presidents elected with the lowest number of votes by Members at the next General Assembly. For each of these three Vice Presidents, the first term is not to exceed two consecutive General Assemblies.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed every four years.

Approved: EC 90

Next Review: EC 96