



# The International Maritime Pilots' Association

An Introduction to the Association in 2026



[www.impahq.org](http://www.impahq.org)



[office@impahq.org](mailto:office@impahq.org)



+44 (0)20 7240 3973



1 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3ND

# Why IMPA?

Combining the General Assembly and a Conference to provide an opportunity for pilots from across the world to meet in person to share knowledge, experience and expertise and gain the latest information on developments in pilotage, related fields and industry

Biennial IMPA  
Congress

A supportive  
international  
community

An Executive and Secretariat committed to the Association's mission and vision and providing members with a platform for sharing knowledge, experience and expertise for mutual benefit in positions, recommendations and guidance.

The IMPA Community Hub is an internal online tool supporting a rich exchange of lived experience and expertise between pilots under the umbrella of IMPA.

Representation  
at the  
International  
Maritime  
Organization

*The voice of maritime pilotage and maritime pilots at the UN specialized agency for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.*



# Respecting Differences, Focused on Unity

*“IMPA continues to grow from strength to strength. We recognise that each member faces unique national and local challenges and approaches pilotage in a different way. The Association’s success reflects its respect for members' unique situations. Our focus is on the unifying forces that bring together a community of more than 50 members across 6 continents, representing over 8,200 pilots who conduct more than 3.5 million acts of pilotage every year. With 99.95% of pilotage acts concluded without incident and a cost-benefit ratio of 1:58.6, the profession truly benefits society by ensuring safe navigation, preventing pollution, and enhancing the efficiency of maritime trade. With this message, IMPA is moving full-ahead, preparing to overcome challenges but with optimism for the future of pilots and maritime pilotage as a public service.”*

**Captain Simon Pelletier, President of IMPA**



# IMPA at a Glance

*The International  
Pilot*

A Global Community  
since 1971

Led by Licensed  
Pilots

The International  
Community for Pilots

Consultative status  
at the IMO since 1973

Providing Technical  
Expertise

Not-for-Profit

For the Mutual  
Benefit of Members



# Our Achievements

26 Biennial Congresses bringing together more than 200 pilots to exchange knowledge, experience and expertise <b>(1973 - present)</b>	Maintained observer status at the IMO since 1973 <b>(Continuous)</b>	Adoption of A.960(23) Recommendations on training and certification and operational procedures for maritime pilots other than deep-sea pilots (2003)	10 Annual Safety Campaigns and corresponding reports to IMO <b>(2005 - present)</b>	MoUs with INTERTANKO, CIRM, IALA, PIANC, IAPH, IHMA and a Letter of Intent with IHO	Established links with industry Associations and stakeholders in pilotage and related fields <b>(Continuous)</b>	Establishment of the first online community dedicated to the exchange of experience and expertise between maritime pilots	Amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 to address trapdoor arrangements (2012)
Recommendations on BRM(P), PPUs, MPX, Pilot Transfer Arrangements developed using the knowledge, experience and expertise of our Members	Defended a maximum climb of 9m on a pilot ladder in SOLAS regulation V/23 (2016)	Active and current participation in IMO work relating to maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS) <b>(2017 - present)</b>	Significant contributions to the development of ISO 799-1:2019, 799-2:2021 and 799-3:2022 (2019 – 2022)	Contributions to the ICS Guide to Helicopter/Ship Operations, Fifth Edition (2021)	Shipping Industry Guidance on Pilot Transfer Arrangements, Third Edition (2022)	Contributions to the ICS Bridge Procedures Guide, Sixth Edition (2022)	The first comparative Study into the Value of Maritime Pilotage based on data for the Danish Strait, Puget Sound and the Türkiye Strait (2022)
Study into methods of securing pilot ladders at intermediate length (University of Southampton, 2022 – 2023)	The first Seminar to IMO Member States and international organizations on pilots and pilotage (2022)	Review of SOLAS Regulation V/23 and associated instruments by IMO (2023 – 2025)	51 submissions to the IMO on pilotage and related fields	International Study on Remote Pilotage <b>(2024 – present)</b>	Pilotage as a complex system <b>(2024 – present)</b>	Established the IMPA Foundation (2025)	.....



## Our Mission

IMPA represents the international community of pilots. We use our membership resources to promote effective safety outcomes in pilotage as an essential public service.

## Our Beliefs

The public interest is best served by fully regulated and cohesive pilotage services free of commercial pressure.

There is no substitute for the presence of a qualified pilot on the bridge.

IMO is the prime authority in matters concerning the safety of international shipping.

All states should adopt a responsible approach based on proven safety strategies in establishing their own regulations, standards and procedures with respect to pilotage.

Existing and emerging information technologies can enhance onboard decision-making by the maritime pilot.

## Our Vision

We will always strive to provide leadership within the maritime community in all matters related to pilotage.

We will constantly seek out the best available knowledge and information and make it available to our members in order to advance our profession and maintain its relevance to the modern world.

We will continue to be recognized as the only global representative body for pilots.

We will expand our membership to include every maritime nation in the world.

We will continue to grow as a facilitator of communications between member organizations.

We want all states to recognise IMPA as the international authority on pilotage matters, to give regard to our policies and resolutions and seek our expertise.

We will continue to work towards improving the pilot's safety environment to minimise personal injury



# A Global Community

More than 50 Pilots'  
Organisations

Over 50 countries

Over 8200 licensed  
pilots

More than 3.5 million  
acts of pilotage  
annually

1.91 incidents per 10  
millions acts of  
pilotage



Created with mapchart.net



# Giving You an International Voice



The United Nations specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

IMO promotes the establishment of pilotage services by Member States as the risk control measure of last resort (A.159(ES.IV)).

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) is responsible for SOLAS regulation V/23 and the associated instruments that affect the safety of pilot transfer arrangements.

The IMO Assembly has adopted *Recommendations on Training and Certification and on Operational Procedures for Maritime Pilots other than Deep-Sea Pilots* (A.960(23)), which provides an international benchmark for maritime pilotage practices.

176

Delegations from port and flag States, including your own

Member States



155

Inter-governmental and non-governmental organization representatives covering all aspects of maritime safety, environmental protection, legal matters and trade facilitation

International Organizations



1

Representing maritime pilotage and pilots, and providing the IMO with the expertise it needs in pilotage and related fields

IMPA

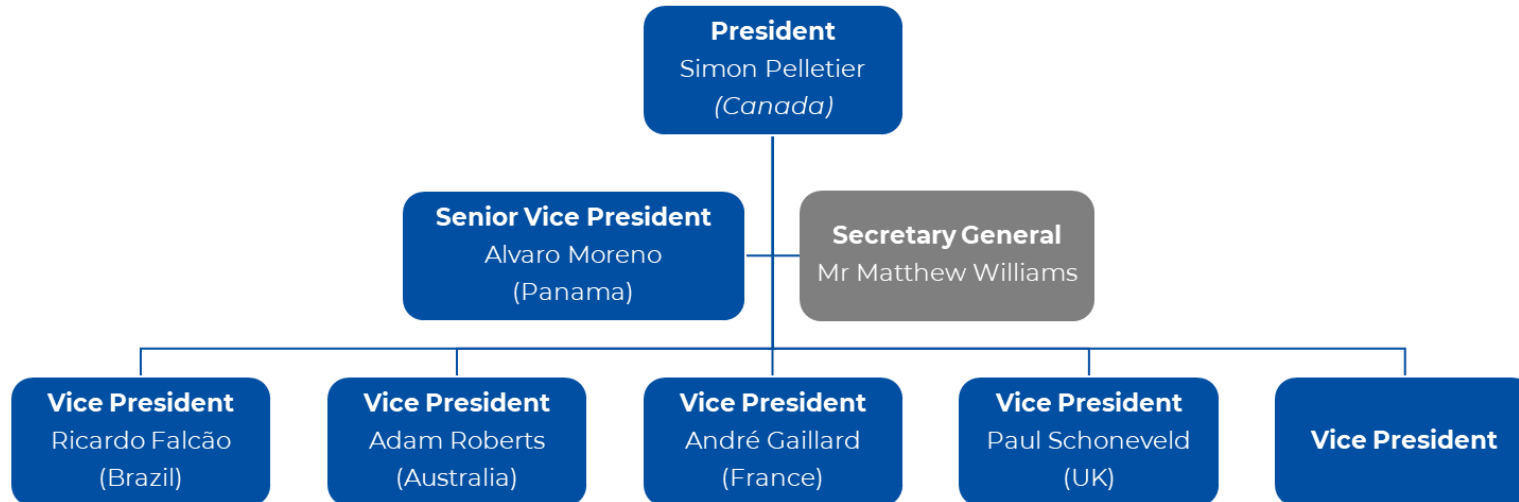




# Leadership and Governance

IMPA Constitution

General Assembly



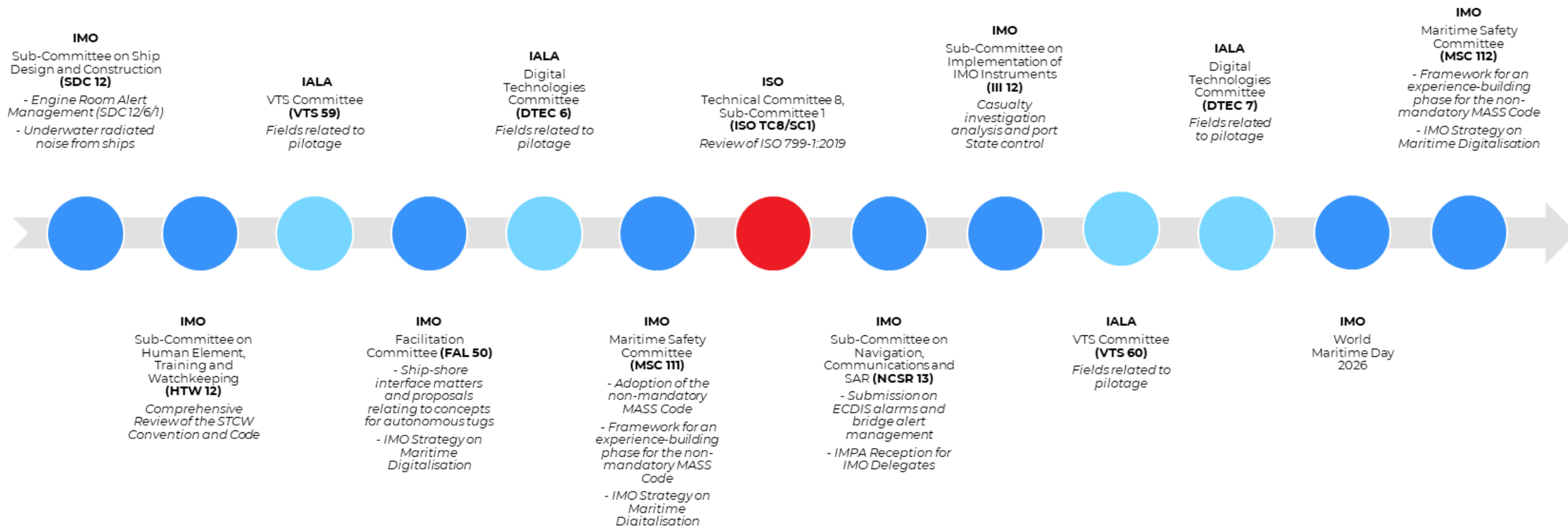
Members' Working Group and Forum

## Governance Matters

- A constitution governs IMPA.
- Executive Officers are elected for a maximum 4-year term of office but may be re-elected for further terms by the membership.
- Executive Officer elections are held during the biennial IMPA General Assembly.
- IMPA Members are represented based on the principle of one member, one vote.
- The Executive Committee appoints the Secretary General to lead a diverse and capable Secretariat.



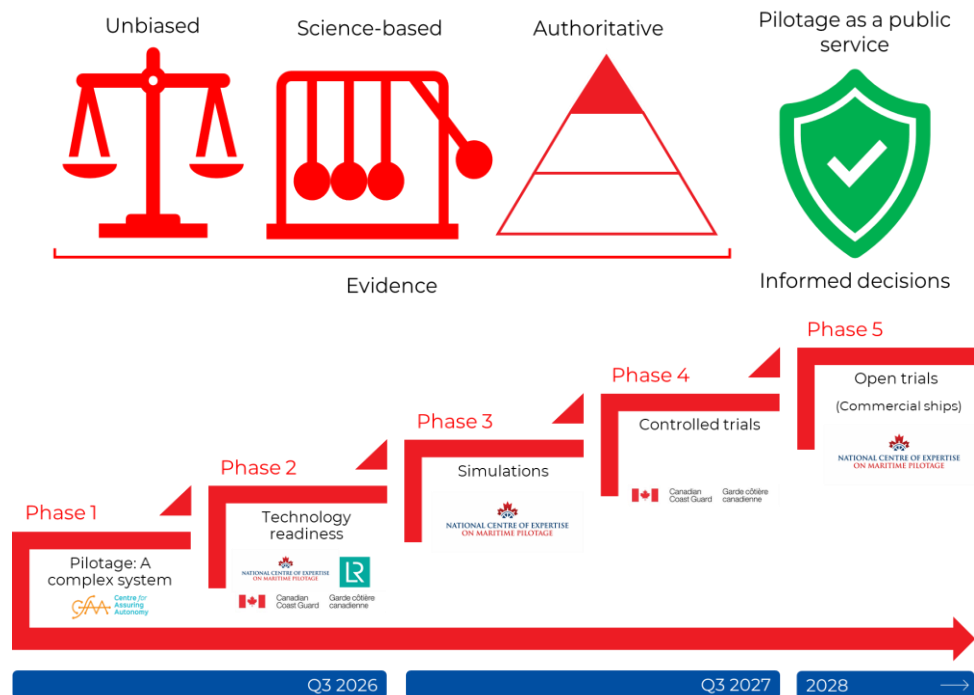
# Representing Pilots at IMO, IALA and ISO



# Major Workstreams in 2026

## International Study on Remote Pilotage

Ground-truthing the concept of remote pilotage by providing authoritative insights for pilots' organizations and competent authorities.



## Pilot Transfer Arrangements

Support consistent global implementation of the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 (MSC.572(110)) and the Performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements (MSC.576(110)).

ISO 799-1:2019 Review and update

Guidance to naval architects and equipment manufacturers

Pilot Ladder Quality Scheme

## ECDIS and Bridge Alarm and Alert Management

Laying the foundations for proposals to revise IMO recommendations on ECDIS and bridge alert management to improve navigation safety

Submission to IMO on Engine Room Alert Management (SDC 12)

Submission to IMO on ECDIS and bridge alert management (NCSR 13)

Submission to IMO proposing new work on ECDIS and bridge alert management (MSC 112)

# XXVII Congress



**AUGUST 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**BALI - INDONESIA**

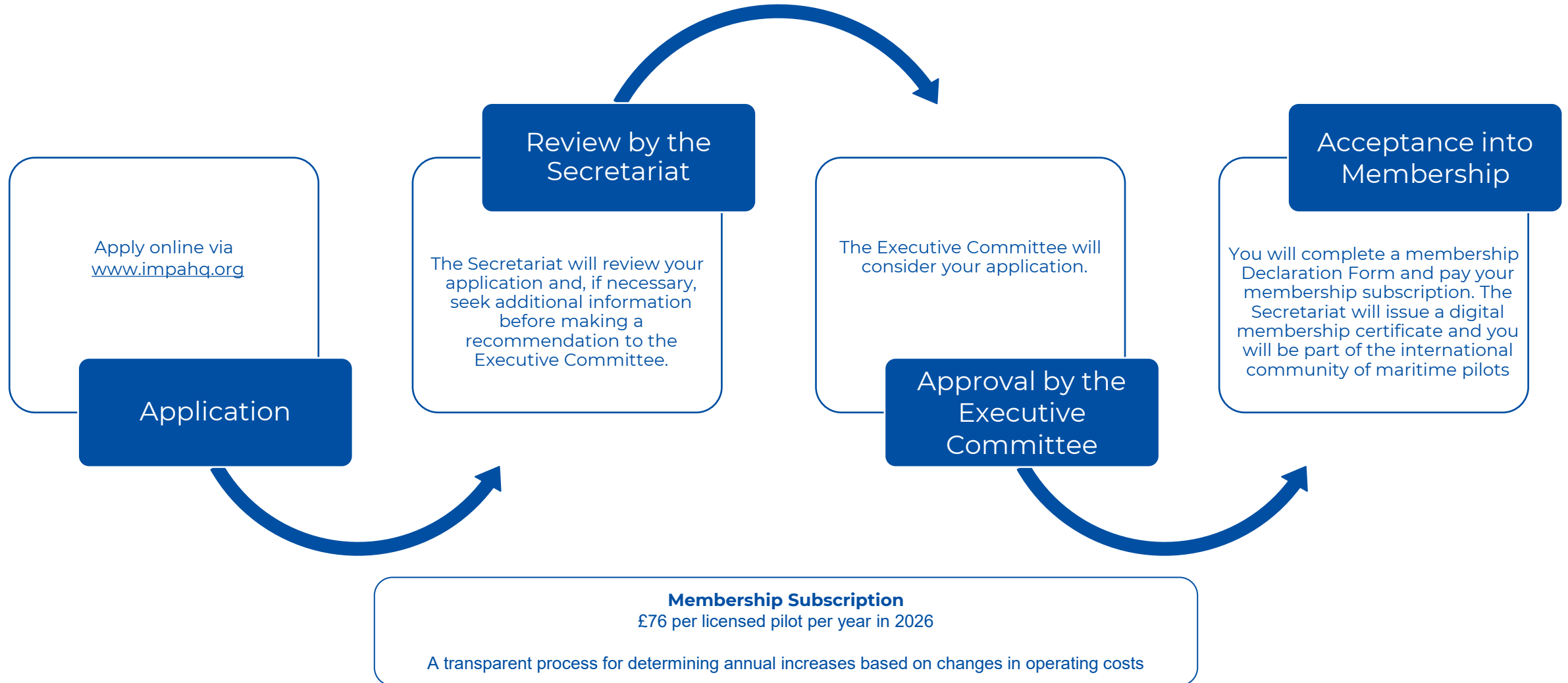
The biennial Congress is a critical part of our mission to bring pilots' organisations from around the world together to share knowledge, experience and expertise.

The Congress programme includes the biennial General Assembly and a Conference of speakers in pilotage and related fields.

**Registrations are open**

<https://www.impabali2026.com/>

# Membership Application Process



# International Organizations We Work With







**IMPA FOUNDATION**  
From Sea to Port for a Resilient Maritime Workforce

***More information about the purpose and work  
of the IMPA Foundation is available at:  
<https://www.impafoundation.com/>***





For all enquiries, please contact the IMPA Secretariat.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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