



## CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE RADIO MEDICO (C.I.R.M.)

Ente Morale D.P.R. 29 Aprile 1950 n. 553 – O.N.L.U.S.

CENTRO ITALIANO RESPONSABILE DELL'ASSISTENZA TELEMEDICA  
MARITTIMA (T.M.A.S.)

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IL PRESIDENTE

### **WELCOME TO THE C.I.R.M. COFFEE** ***A digital initiative to celebrate the 91st anniversary of the Centro Internazionale Radio Medico***

The *Centro Internazionale Radio Medico (C.I.R.M.)*, which began its operations on April 7, 1935, has represented for more than nine decades a global reference point in maritime telemedicine. This year, on the occasion of its 91st anniversary, the anniversary falls on a particular date, the Tuesday following the Easter holidays, making it difficult to organize an in-person event with appropriate institutional participation.

For this reason, we have developed a digital event of high symbolic value, involving distinguished figures from the sector at both national and international level: the Italian Minister of Health, Prof. Orazio Schillaci; the President of the ITF Seafarers' Trust, Dr. Kaite Higginbottom; the Commandant General of the Italian Coast Guard, Admiral Sergio Liardo; the President of Assarmatori, Dr. Stefano Messina; and a member of our Scientific Committee, Admiral Luigi Giardino.

Thus, was born the idea of "**The C.I.R.M. Coffee**", a series of videos in which selected personalities share a brief reflection on the role of C.I.R.M., telemedicine, and medical assistance at sea. Ideally, by watching these videos, we will share a coffee together, reflecting on the long-standing challenge of ensuring adequate medical care for those at sea—what we have today and what we still aspire to achieve. In short, the challenges that lie ahead.

Our story began on the evening of April 7, 1935. At 8:15 p.m., C.I.R.M. received via radio, in Morse code, its first request for assistance from the steamship *Perla*, sailing in the Atlantic Ocean. The message read: "*Stoker diagnosed on day 2 by Dakar physician with Pott's disease, prescribed Adrenocalcina stop. Today presents fever 39 with eclampsia pulse 77 please advise. Commander De Simoni.*" Twenty minutes later, at 8:35 p.m., C.I.R.M. sent its first response. Thanks to the prescribed treatment, the stoker began to improve and eventually recovered.

We do not know the name of the stoker of the steamship *Perla*, our patient number one, the first of 148,405 patients assisted to date across ships and aircraft. This assistance has required approximately one million medical messages sent and received, thousands of aeronaval rescue operations, and continuous healthcare support—from large oil tankers to passenger ships and small fishing vessels. It is a very particular form of assistance, considering that most of the time we do not know—and may never know or meet—our patients, whom we have treated and, often, whose lives we have saved.

These figures speak more eloquently than words about the activity of our "remote hospital," which holds the distinction of being the Telemedical Maritime Assistance Service (TMAS) center with the highest number of patients treated at sea and in the air worldwide. In the past year alone, we assisted 7,831 patients through the basic telemedical service and 5,046 patients through the PREMIUM service. The latter is provided by our spin-off, CIRM SERVIZI, and benefits from advanced telemedical equipment available on board, capable of monitoring patients almost as if the doctor were physically present beside them.

Today, April 7, 2026, we are ideally gathered in the home of C.I.R.M., sharing a virtual coffee, to reflect on a mission that is truly unique in the international medical landscape—and to celebrate 91 years of activity, commitment, and dedication to thousands of our patients, often overlooked workers who, together with us, face the challenges of the sea and the sky every day.

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### IL PRESIDENTE

This is a special day for us, a moment for reflection and forward-looking perspectives. An opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the physicians who work daily at C.I.R.M. and CIRM SERVIZI in caring for our remote patients. Our thanks also go to all technical and administrative, and support staff who contribute every day to keeping such a complex organization efficient and operational. A center that, often away from the spotlight, contributes, through the collective efforts of its staff, to the good of humanity.

Last year, we chose to summarize the spirit of our commitment with a quote by Anatole France: *"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe."* This is what we have done for 91 years—and what we will continue to do with even greater commitment in the years to come.

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