



Welcome address of Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President, during the Opening Ceremony of the III International Training Course in Topography for young Surveyors

Dear Mr. President Fausto Savoldi of the Consiglio Nazionale de Geometri e Geometri Laureati CNG (Italy),

Dear Mr. Managing Director Giuseppe Simeone of Geoweb (Italy),

Dear Mrs. Vice President Chryssy Potsiou of FIG (Greece),

Dear Mr. President Randolph Camilleri of the European Group of Surveyors (Malta),

I am very happy and honored to open this III International Training Course in Topography for Young Surveyors.

As a matter of fact, every word in this title is of importance. Allow me to give you my interpretation.

Third means that there was a first, a second and probably there will be a fourth and a fifth. This stands for Continuity. Indeed, one can see that the Italian CLGE member association is very committed. Especially since the team is led by Fausto Savoldi it has invested a lot in national and international affairs, in a very clear and sustained way.

Our Italian Friends do not only organize this International Training course but they are also very busy in preparing the next FIG working week.

The word was said already. "Third International". The International aspect of this event is important too. CLGE is very engaged in the International dimension of our profession as you will understand soon. 80% of all legislation is indeed related to the European level.

"Third International Training Course in Topography" is a clear message towards young professionals. When graduating, they know that they enter a cycle of lifelong learning. We call this CPD or Continued Professional Development. Well, this training course is a very good "best practice" set by our Italian colleagues and we have to congratulate them therefore.

I will not repeat the full wording, "...Young": in my understanding this is the most important word in the whole sentence. As one can easily see, we, on the podium, are grayish, this means 50 and upwards. We are working hard to promote the future of the profession but I hope it's plain to you, it's not for our own sake, it's for the future of our youngsters. So please be aware that we need your help and your commitment.

About the "Surveyors", it's needless to present them to you professionals. However, I would like to give you my vision. I strongly believe that, especially in the shaky economic environment we're experiencing, the surveyor has a first order role to play. He stands firmly on the ground with his two legs. One leg is related to data gathering and data management in favor of (National) Geographic Data Infrastructures. The other leg has to do with his important tasks in the real estate property safeguarding when it comes to cadastral surveying and property delimitation. National governments would be well advised to recognize this fact. In the ideal situation both tasks are neatly related. No change in the limit of a land property without an entrance of this change in the NSDI.



Of course CLGE works a lot to promote this approach. During this short welcome address we cannot detail all our activities.

Hence, let's stress only two recent examples.

In 2009, we've signed the European Code of Conduct, applicable for the whole area from Murmansk to Madeira! This is of course a huge territory but also a huge step towards the integration of our ethical standards. This text was signed in Rome, again Italy!

Last September we've adopted another important document during our GA in Tallinn, Estonia. It's a unified code for the measurement of floor areas within buildings. This is an important step forwards in favor of our clients who deserve honest and transparent property information.

We have also ambitious plans for the future but therefore we ask your support.

I will give you some clear and understandable examples.

One of our recent programs 'First STEP' encounters some problems to overcome the typical inertia. First STEP stands for the first step in professional life but also for the Students and Trainees Exchange Program. It corresponds to a dedicated space on the www.clge.eu website where companies can post some possibilities for trainees and on the other hand, students and you graduated surveyors can post their demands regarding such potential traineeships.

As the program knows only limited success, it would be nice that you go home and register your company to this program. It's of course not easy, it's a burden but on the other hand it introduces the dynamic approach one is missing nowadays.

We also have decided to promote our profession Europe wide by introducing the Day of the European Surveyor. At this occasion, next year, on the 5th March 2012 we will organize an attractive reception in Brussels. But we will also ask all our member states to celebrate that event in their own way.

CLGE has also launched a students' contest in three categories: Topography/Geodesy, Mapping/GIS and Students and youngsters' engagement. More details to follow on the CLGE website. Papers have to be posted before the 15th July 2012. The three awards will be handed over at the Second International Students Meeting in Hanover on 10 October 2012. On 11 October there will be the Third Conference of the European Surveyor.

But this is a long list already and I could continue for hours.

Please, when you go home, spread the word that we need the commitment of all surveyors for the future of our beautiful and proud profession.



Finally, I would like to congratulate not only the organizers but also the participants. You've been selected amongst plenty of candidates from Europe and the Mediterranean Region. 50 trainees have joined the course from 21 states, including the Russian Federation, Israel and Morocco!

The coming weeks will enable you to exchange with the older generation of surveyors but also amongst your group.

Please be aware that you are building a network of collegiality and friendship that you will never forget.

Keep in mind, we have to build on this for the best future of our marvelous profession.

Jean-Yves Pirlot
President

Athens, 3 October 2011