



The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors
Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens

Brussels, 12 April 2010

Mr. Jürgen Tiedje
Head of Unit Professional qualifications
DG Internal Market and Services
B – 1049 Brussels

Dear Mr. Tiedje,

First of all, we would like to thank you for the current initiative and the fact that you've invited the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors to take part in the very important evaluation process of the Professional Qualifications Directive.

With the Services Directive the above mentioned text is a cornerstone of the professional frame of our organisation and we are of course more than eager to cooperate with your Unit.

Allow us to give you a very short presentation of our Council (a CLGE leaflet is attached and more information is available on www.clge.eu).

CLGE gathers national surveying associations from 31 European countries, with of course delegations from the 27 EU member states.

It represents and promotes the geodetic surveying profession in the EU and its outskirts – that means more than 31.000 individual professionals – through:

- A permanent forum for Geodetic Surveyors working in Europe
- A commitment to cooperation and partnership within the profession in Europe
- Exchange of knowledge and expertise between professionals across national and international borders
- Provision of consultation and advice to member countries, national associations and the European Union
- Maintenance and enhancement of professional qualifications and standards of service throughout member countries
- Representation of the profession to European authorities and governments
- Participation in other relevant organisations within Europe and worldwide.

Regarding your questionnaire, it was of course not easy for us to answer in such a short time frame and we would like to ask you to see our contribution as a first step in the process. Our Executive Board and General Assembly will be informed on the next occasion and we suppose that other insights could result from this further consultation.

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Henning Elmstroem

(Denmark)

President

Address Secretary-General Jean-Yves Pirlot, House of the European Surveyor and GI
Rue du Nord 76, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



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Please find attached the 6 important questions out of the proposed list, each with a short statement. In particular the topics related to the Bologna process, the Professional Platforms and all the topics related to the required qualifications level are very important in our view. We share these views with a sister organisation called the European Group of Surveyors.

We would be grateful if we could organise a meeting with you to discuss these questions in a more detailed way.

Sincerely yours,

Jean-Yves Pirlot
Secretary General

Henning Elmstroem
President

Enclosures: CLGE leaflet
6 important questions for CLGE



1.2. Temporary mobility

How has the new regime for temporary provision of services been implemented?

The new regime for temporary provision of services has been implemented differently in our member associations. In some countries, the surveyors hold a mission of public service. The question at stake was then the following: shouldn't such activities fall within the scope of application of article 45 of the Treaty (vs. article 49)? The issue was so important in terms of consumer protection that CLGE called for a study which was directed by Professor Dr. Martin Henssler. According to this study, the surveying activities which come under the delegation of public services should not fall within the scope of application of the directive. This does not mean that no mobility is possible within these activities. The group of countries with this kind of public appointment has developed a kind of "platform", called "accord multilateral".

Therefore, CLGE asks the European Commission to take into consideration this key issue while considering the future directive.

1.4. Recognition for sectoral professions

To what extent has the system of automatic recognition been a success? Is there any downside or have there been any pitfalls? What about language requirements?

According to the Code of Conduct for European Surveyors which was adopted by CLGE General Assembly in Rome in September 2009, European surveyors are professionals with the academic and professional qualifications and legal and technical expertise to undertake a range of surveying tasks. The knowledge and understanding of the legal environment in which the surveying activities will be conducted in a given country are fundamental. Surveyors have to deal with their clients on a daily basis and are due to provide advice to their clients.

Therefore, CLGE strongly calls for the upholding of language requirements to ensure that the obligation of consumer protection is respected.

1.6 Recognition of third country qualifications

Which problems arise from the implementation of the current provisions on third country diplomas?

The problem with the recognition of third country qualifications is twofold.

Some countries have signed mutual recognition agreements with third countries, which was the case for France with Quebec for instance as the qualifications are equivalent in those two countries. But what if a Quebec surveyor wants to settle in France? Could he benefit from the mutual recognition with EU countries as his qualification is considered to be equivalent to the French one?

The same considerations apply to agreements with Switzerland, Norway or Croatia, closer to us and still out of the EU.

But at the same time, and this is a second problem arising from the recognition of third country qualifications, European surveyors are eager to fight against "free riders".



The recognition of third country qualifications implies the guarantee of the high level of qualification which would indeed be equivalent to the European standards. In this regard, CLGE supports the Master degree as an appropriate level of qualifications for European surveyors.

2.2. Education

Can the Bologna process bring about more automatic recognition on the basis of converging training programs? For which economic sectors and related regulated professions in the Internal Market would this be most beneficial?

The Bologna process could indeed bring about more automatic recognition on the basis of converging training programs provided the level of qualifications required is equivalent in every country for a given profession.

Such a convergence could be benefic to many economic sectors provided a high level of qualifications is achieved. The convergence may not imply a down leveling of the required qualifications.

3.1. Common platforms

To what extent are common platforms a workable tool to facilitate migration?

The common platforms could be a workable tool provided their use is made easier. The conditions laid down by the directive are far too restrictive, complicated and unclear, which can surely explain the reason why no professional association was able to use it.

We would like to discuss the possibility of creating a platform for the mobility of cadastral surveyors.

3.2. Professional cards

Under which conditions could a professional card facilitate migration? Is this a feasible project in a foreseeable future? Should it be limited to specific professions?

Professional cards could facilitate the migration of workers in the EU as the recognition of qualifications would be made easier. The costs may though be important. The European Commission should first consider the professions (e.g. engineers) in which the system was applied to see whether professional cards could be extended to other professions.

As the implementation of such a system may be more or less problematic depending on the professions considered, the project should maybe be limited to specific professions at first.