



The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors

Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens

23 June 2003

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLGE
Wels, 11-12 April 2003**

Minutes

Venue City Hall Wels, Old Council Meeting Room, Stadtplatz, A-4600 Wels, Austria

General Assembly I, Friday 11 April 2003, 9.00-12.30

1. Opening

CLGE President K. Rürup opens the General Assembly with thanks to the Austrian hosts. He presents a special welcome address to FIG Vice-President Dr. Andreas Drees, who attends the meeting on behalf of the FIG President H. Magel and delivers best regards from the Executive Board of FIG to all delegates. FIG hopes to improve the existing links and co-operation on professional matters. As the FIG Working Week in Paris will start shortly after the General Assembly, Mr. Drees will have to leave the meeting soon. The welcome address by the President of the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geoinformation A. Hochwartner is postponed to the afternoon to the joint session of CLGE/GE, as the General Assembly of OVG takes place at the same time. The schedule for the General Assembly includes a joint session with GE in the afternoon.

2. Roll Call and Apologies of Absence

22 participants from member countries except France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Norway, Portugal and Spain attended the meeting. J. Anneveld (NL), R. Camilleri (Mt), S. Enemark (DK), M. Rohardt (GER), V. Sedlak (SK), G. Rando (IT) and P. Panunzi (IT) have sent apologies for their absence. No observers were represented in the General Assembly (see enclosed participation list).

FIG Vice-President A. Drees represented FIG as invited guest. FIG Director M. Villikka, WPLA Chairperson B. Kjellson, EuroGeographics Director N. Land, EUROGI Secretary-General B. Marchesini have sent apologies.

3. Approval of Agenda

No additional proposals for the agenda by delegates.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the agenda as circulated without amendments and comments.

4. Approval of the Minutes from General Assembly in Venice, 27-28 September 2002

No comments or amendments to the minutes circulated by e-mail on 20 February 2003 by delegates.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the minutes as circulated unanimously.

5. Report from the President

President K. Rürup refers in his report about activities since the last General Assembly in Venice to the following items:

- On 1 Oct 2002 a public **hearing on professional qualifications** organised by the European Parliament's committee on legal affairs, chaired by Mr. Giuseppe Gargani, MEP has taken in Brussels. This event has been attended by the rapporteur of the EU Mr. Zappala and was therefore a good opportunity for statements by professional associations especially for CLGE because K. Rürup knew him from the General Assembly in Venice. K. Rürup presented two points on behalf of CLGE in the meeting: Art 14 & 2 of the proposal. CLGE proposes a compulsory test instead of only a course. The other point were regulations in every country to supervise local offices. Cross-border services are out of supervision, as the home country is responsible but not interested and the foreign country does not know who is working from abroad as registration is planned to be obligatory only after 16 weeks of permanent stay. Hopefully this can be settled by consumer protection regulations.

Other statements in the discussion came from the rapporteur from the European High Court who claimed about basic mistakes. Besides there are many complaints by the member states. FRA, GER, AUS are not in favour of the proposal.

President K. Rürup is not quite convinced that the directive will be decided in the near future. The initial time schedule by end of 2002 was not realistic as the whole approach for the directive has been changed. At the moment 5-10 different EC directives on the subject professions, free movement, cross-border services and qualification are in discussion (see enclosed report).

For CLGE two unsolved questions remain about expressions. First if the term "professional qualification" implies a lower qualification, then CLGE will reject this version. Second the word "competition" is not accepted only if professionals in all member states work under equal conditions. Free movement is no problem for our profession but the difference between SMEs and world wide companies is not considered in the draft. Art. 14(2) proposes to change the adjustment of qualification, CLGE considers the prove of practice in a foreign country not to be enough. CLGE supports the statement made by the rapporteur of the EU high court Prof. Hensler.

- **CLGE Standing Committee** meeting in Innsbruck in January 2003. Results will be included in the report of the Vice-President.
- RICS President Peter Fall has delivered an invitation for a **round table discussion** on different views between RICS and CLGE on professional qualifications. The meeting is scheduled to take place on 6 May 2003 in the RICS headquarter in London. The agenda is agreed. Each partner contributed with three items. More details will be discussed later on under item 25 of the agenda.
- President K. Rürup attended a **joint seminar** of CEPLIS and UEAPME in Brussels on 26 February 2003. The seminar under the headline "Social Dialogue and the Liberal Professions in the New Economy" was organised to find comon positions that will serve as the basis for a new partnership between the two organisations. The seminar was dedicated on social policy, training issues and labour market.

6. Report from the Vice President

Vice-President H. Elmstroem, Chairperson of the Standing Committee, gives an overview about the two main activities in the Standing Committee:

- The new **CLGE Statutes** which reflect the future strategy and role of CLGE will hopefully be adopted soon by the General Assembly.

- Since the last General Assembly in Venice the CLGE **website** has been developed and is now accessible to public. One part of the website contains internal information and papers and can be visited by CLGE members using individual codewords.

7. Report from the Secretary General

Secretary-General G. Schennach reports about

- a **PEAF (Pan European Association Forum) meeting** in Apeldoorn/NL in December 2002. It was the second meeting of about 10-15 Secretary-Generals of pan European professional associations related to our profession. The first meeting has been hosted by CLGE in Innsbruck/Austria in December 2001. Main topics of this one and a half day meeting were burning issues in the EU affecting CLGE interests like proposals for a European Permanent Cadastral Committee or a European Advisory Board for GI to the EC.

G. Schennach is involved into activities of several European initiatives and thus CLGE is strongly linked to EuroGeographics, WPLA, EUROGI and to GINIE, INSPIRE and PSI. They all keep an for the moment invisible impact on our profession.

- The co-operation with the webmaster of the CLGE **website** went very well and as leading coordinator it is V. Slaboch to receive thanks and congratulations.
- The draft for the **statutes** have been prepared by the Secretary-General. After the General Assembly in Venice, where a lot of ammendments and comments were collected in break-out sessions and where a clear direction for the statutes was agreed by the delegates, a draft including the results of Venice was written and circulated to the delegates again. There were no inputs any more in this communication. The discussion later on in the General Assembly is expected to bring in the last comments before adoption.

8. Report from the Treasurer

Treasurer R. Sonney has circulated accounts 2002 and statements about the financial situation to all delegates prior to this meeting. He gives a report about the outstanding membership fees for 2003. BUL, FRA, MAL, UK, POR will get reminders next week.

The report about the accounts 2002 and the proposal for 2003 is accepted by the delegates without comments.

9. Auditors Report and Adoption of Accounts 2002

Auditor R. Dhur has checked all papers of the book-keeping and found everything in order.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the report of the auditors and the annual accounts for 2002 unanimously.

10. New applicants and associate members

General-Secretary informs about existing permanent contacts to Slovenia. They had to review membership for funding reasons and at the moment it seems to be possible that they get into CLGE. EUROGI membership is too expensive and the time as an observer is over. The contacts will be kept up.

If addresses for associations in the Baltic countries are available, delegates are requested to deliver them to the secretariat or to keep contacts and inform the secretariat. The addresses which are used at the moment seem to be not always the right ones. There are no responses from these contact persons to CLGE papers.

11. Nominations for Elections for Standing Committee and Auditors

H. Elmstroem points out the link to the decision on the new statutes. The period for the officers to be elected now will probably last only until autumn 2003, if statutes are adopted in this General Assembly.

According to a call for proposals two candidates for members of the Standing Committee were nominated to the secretariat in time: Mark Wijngaarde (NL) as representative for West Europe and Emmanuel Ouranos (GR) for South Europe.

Both candidates are invited to explain their ideas and plans for their office.

M. Wijngaarde reports about his publications in the national magazine and about his efforts to promote CLGE especially to institutions of the EU.

E. Ouranos sees the only reason for a second term in the Standing Committee as he is chairperson of the WP on market report and he needs the position to promote the results of the WP.

The five regional representatives in the Standing Committee and the two Auditors have to be elected for a term of office of one year. The present status is:

North West Martin Coulson (UK)

North East Seija Vanhanen (FIN)

West Bernard Bour (F)

Central Rudolf Kolbe (AUT)

South Pedro Cavero (SP)

Auditors Raymond Dhur (LUX)

 Giuseppe Rando (IT)

There were no proposals for auditors neither prior to the General Assembly nor at the election procedure. Therefore the Executive Board proposes to stay with the two auditors.

R. Dhur accepts his nomination. G. Rando is absent.

Decision: General Assembly re-elects R. Dhur and G. Rando as Internal Auditors unanimously by show of hands.

12. CLGE Website

V. Slaboch gives a short overview about the website and its structure. He reminds that the member parts need to be updated. A circulation mail to all delegates containing an instruction how to proceed with the update of the members part was not quite successful. Only a part of the national websites has been updated. For some countries data are still missing. Delegates need to take care that the website is working well, that update is done regularly and that website is kept vital by comments, inputs and news posted on it. If the website is maintained actively, many visitors will use it as an information point and this will help to raise our influence by getting a well known organisation.

13. Promoting CLGE in the public

It has been agreed in the General Assembly in Venice to produce a CLGE flyer about the profession. R. Dhur asks about the dimension of the flyer. 4 pages is considered to be the minimum. Content and size depends mostly on the customers to be addressed by the brochure. M. Coulson mentions that it has been decided that decision makers and the public form the target market. It is not yet clear where the brochure should be distributed and which amount is calculated for layout, printing e.a.

Disc: U. Sandgren proposes to discuss about a small leaflet for meetings for officials. Attracting people must happen on national level. K. Rürup suggests that CLGE is responsible for one part of the leaflet and that national associations are obliged to create the other part. If so they will consider it their product. M. Coulson reports about promoting

activities by the university of Newcastle for students. The impact is seen on numbers of new students.

G. Schennach sees the main question if the leaflet is seen as a short term measure to promote current activities of CLGE to decision makers or if it is a mid term instrument to make the profession public. The size and content will vary quite much according to the intention. R. Durussel proposes to produce a short leaflet to save money and to start with one language. CLGE will have to transport its logo to national associations, to enhance the use of the CLGE logo. He agrees to assist R. Dhur for the preparation. The working language is French, the result will be presented in English.

The proposal to the General Assembly is to collect the new ideas from the discussion and to produce a draft for the General Assembly in autumn 2003.

14. CLGE Statutes I

H. Elmstroem refers to the draft statutes which had been circulated before the last General Assembly in Venice, the results of the discussions in the General Assembly and the break out sessions in Venice and the input from e-mail consultations and discussions in the Standing Committee in Innsbruck. The final draft has been evaluated from these comments and been circulated to all delegates.

General Assembly II, Friday 11 April 2003, 14.00-17.30 Joint Session of CLGE and GE

15. Opening

GE President O. Schuster and CLGE President K. Rürup start with a short introduction and information to the next item.

16. EU Directive on Mutual Recognition of professions

K. Rürup welcomes the Austrian MEP Dr. Maria Berger, Member of the Committee of Legal affairs and internal market. Mrs. Berger is as well member of the EU convention to develop a European constitution resp. framework. Before her engagement to the EU she was Vice-President of the University Krems and head of the department of EU affairs in the Office of the Austrian Chancellor.

Dr. Otmar Schuster opens the discussion about the Directive on Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, which is in process in the different EU institutions at the moment. First he gives a short information about GE and its members. The drafted Directive is difficult for the profession in all public sector activities. Second ESF and GATS are important for us to show that liberal professions are not against liberalisation. GE considers social dialogue to be important for us. The market report which is produced by GE on behalf of CLGE shows that the profession is not as small as considered often as the contribution to the European economy makes 3.5 bio €/year. Objections against the Directive raise especially for Article 15 as it touches licensing. Mr. Stoodley from the EC DG Internal Market has encouraged us to establish a platform to discuss items related to qualification. BAC+5+2 years practice + final examination is regarded to be the right qualification level. More or less all countries are organized like this but this is not well known to most of the MEPs.

Dr. Berger reports about the voting yesterday for accession in Strasbourg, the EP was in favour for the enlargement of the EU. A major issue at the moment are the procedures on a new European Constitution in the EU convention.

Dr. Berger presents her ideas of the draft Directive. The qualification is to be turned round by the EC to be proved in the country of origin from the present regulation which demands to prove the qualification in the host country.

The liberal profession is still one of the most regulated sector in Europe with no possibility for a real internal market of services. This is shown by a survey about obstacles in MS. A general directive on services will come up.

It is the aim of the EU to define one directive for all professions as a framework of average rules is necessary. The draft report by Mr. Zappala wants to maintain the sectoral directive which is not supported by the EP. Two streams - one directive or one directive for each sector. The whole discussion not well developed and it is not yet clear which of the two directions will succeed.

The vote in the plenary (which is the decisive vote) will not be before Sept 2003.

One of the most important question was how to define a service. The discussion on the definition has taken 16 weeks without final result.

Disc: K. Rürup refers to a proposal by Mr. Zappala to find a definition of the professions before the Directive. Dr. Berger considers the restrictions to be too much focussed to academic professions which will not be agreed. At the beginning the profession was under the general directive on mutual recognition. Now there is a general directive to give regulations on all kind of professions. The discussion shows that even within GE and CLGE it is difficult to find a definition which is appropriate for all MS. There will be more cross-border activities but no unification of professions and not too many changes to the present situation. R. Kolbe stresses the need of an amendment regarding our part of the profession where we fulfil tasks for authorities, similar to regulations for notaries. Dr. Berger explains that there is an exception for lawyers at the moment and for professions doing public tasks.

Compulsory membership to national chambers is not considered an obstacle for liberalisation but abuse of membership by chambers is quoted very often as bad examples (f.e. additional payments with double rates of membership fees in other MS after 16 week limit)

It is not sure if Art 15 in Mr. Zappalas paper which has been changed by the EC so that professional associations are required to discuss platforms will remain.

O. Schuster changes to questions regarding the EU convention. As Dr. Berger reports the question of a European Presidency is not yet decided, some members propose a change of presidency all six months, others propose to have some kind of team presidency (smaller groups and big countries) with a 2.5 years term which can be shared.

G. Schennach asks for regional issues, cultural diversity to be considered in the constitution. This is considered a high value of the EU and is an objective to discussions. All horizontal principles (subsidiarity, proportionality, cultural diversity, linguistic diversity e.a.) will be principles in the constitution. The structure will include a Council, a state council and initially a state representatives council was proposed but this third chamber is no longer supported. National council will maintain.

Social dialogue will be mentioned in the constitution and parliamentarians will be involved into social dialogue by an amendment.

The discussion with Dr. Berger gave very general and impressive informations to the delegates. She proved to be very well informed about the profession but she cannot give a specific view at the present stage of proceedings in the European Parliament. R. Kolbe will keep the contact and act as a link to Dr. Berger. Details of the permanent procedures are published on the EP website.

President K. Rürup thanks Mrs. Berger for her very interesting report and handed over a bunch of flowers to her.

17. Report on Liaison with the E.U. Commissions, on GATS and ESF

O. Schuster has sent a letter to the EC to inform about intention to form a platform for discussion how to require a higher qualification as regulated in the directive, namely BAC+5+2 practice or direct training paid by the state and a final examination. He has got a positive answer. The German Oberprüfungsamt invited for the platform and collected all data. GE has sponsored this procedure. Next months first ideas and results will be presented to the EC first to make our profession well known in Brussels and to make the different states to accept this.

ESF European Services Forum is a consulting organ to the EU Commissioner Lamy dealing with WTO. Surveyors are accepted to this gremium but the EU politics are in a deep change. Former the politics were directed by the market, but now after basic changes the EU does not include the public services into WTO, this is a big change for all of us as this is a big sector (water, infrastructure) in many countries.

The French water industry claimed against market orientated procedures as well as the French government is busy to hold their own state television. Germany is heading into the same direction.

The ATTAC people are a further element against intentions of WTO and globalisation activities. EC and ESF have stated in a letter that ATTAC and antiglobalisation people have to be considered in negotiations as they have reached government level with their activities.

18. Social Dialogue/ CEPLIS

O. Schuster reports that CEPLIS (European Council for the Liberal Professions) has now started co-operation with UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises). As a first consequence they can enter the social dialogue on European level. The discussions are held as tripartite discussions = third party is the topic itself.

Social dialogue causes contracts on EU level which has to be handled like a law. Costs and efforts for implementation will be shared between the two organisations. A statement by GE to the Social Dialogue can be obtained from the website www.geometer-europas.org.

K. Rürup comments that the social dialogue bases on legal regulations as Art 1 38 and 39 and the Barcelona Declaration and is driven by the big industry. We as SME cannot take out any benefit of this discussion but we need to watch the process.

19. First Platform Conference

GE organised a conference in January 2003 at Frankfurt/Germany to discuss professional qualification guidelines for the GE countries.

The platform is organised in two parts, one technical part for all countries and one specific part for the six GE countries with licensed surveyors. The future regulation will include one examination at the university valid for all countries and one examination for the country where a person wants to work.

G. Schennach asks about impact of Directive on mutual recognition which regulates that qualification is valid from the country of origin. O. Schuster sees no problems for that part of liberal profession working for public authorities.

DK supports the definition of the platform as a quality platform.

20. Future co-operation with GE

O. Schuster states that GE and CLGE are working together very closely. The aims are very similar as can be seen from the market report. More and more the entire profession is concerned, not only the private sector.

21. Report of the Working Party on “Market Report”

O. Schuster presents the final draft of the Market Report about the market of surveying in Europe which aim is to show how many people are involved into the market and how much they contribute to the market. The draft is circulated in the meeting.

Some countries did not reply. Some delegates complain about replies by their universities. Some figures are rather incredible as f.e. CZ and France produce nearly the same amount of professionals a year.

The professional starters are divided into 3 categories: graduates, technicians and management personnel.

The figures in the report are calculated by a decline model (description see paper). The office model uses two sorts of numbers (formulas see paper).

Numbers for budget e.a. are taken from EUROSTAT.

O. Schuster asks all delegates to send improvements, new figures and comments until end of May 2003 to him after the General Assembly. The original report will be posted on the members part of www.clge.org, probably with a discussion possibility.

E. Ouranos proposes to improve the report and to present the final version to the General Assembly in autumn. R. Durussel asks for explanations to tablets to understand the content.

22. Accolade of outstanding personalities by the GE President.

As one of the accoladed persons is member of the Executive Board of the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geoinformation OVG which holds the General Assembly at the same time, the ceremony is transferred to this assembly. CLGE President K. Rürup and GE President O. Schuster leave the meeting for this purpose.

General Assembly III, Saturday 12 April 2003, 9.00-12.00

23. Report of the Working Party on “Quality Report”

Chairperson F. Peckels announces that the final version will be printed until the Standing Committee meeting in July 2003. A questionnaire on certification of software and quality maintenance of software will be forwarded by V. Slaboch to F. Peckels (LUX). The publication will be done only on the member part of the CLGE website.

24. Research Grant for “Property Report”

K. Rürup did not make a proposal for the research grant as decided in the General Assembly in Venice as he proposes to postpone the topic until the results of the other WPs are published and until CLGE has the new structure with the 3 Vice-Presidents. One of them will have to start on this topic and will have a chance to proceed on his own ideas. General Assembly agrees to this procedure.

25. CLGE and RICS

President K. Rürup reports that the official invitation for a round table meeting with RICS President P. Fall is for 6 May 2003 in London, RICS Headquarters. The meeting will start at 10.30 and last until 16.00. The agenda was agreed by both parts. The participants of CLGE will be nominated by the Executive Board. A report about the discussion and further process will be given to the next Standing Committee and General Assembly. Delegates will keep informed.

Disc: R. Durussel asks about strategy of CLGE – cooperate or fight against RICS? M.

Coulson sees a big misunderstanding and hopes that the meeting will clarify things.

26. CLGE Statutes II

H. Elmstroem proposes the following proceeding:

- to adopt the statutes only in principle in this General Assembly
- improved final proposal circulated soon after General Assembly to all delegates
- collect comments until 1 June 2003
- prepare final final draft by Standing Committee in the next meeting in July 2003
- send out this version in July together with Internal Rules Draft to all delegates
- adopt statutes by General Assembly in London

As a consequence the elections in autumn will follow the new statutes.

Disc: R. Kolbe supports the procedure. V. Teetzmann proposes to produce a paper for the Internal Rules comparing the new and old version for easier handling.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the proposal including results of this General Assembly in principle unanimously (paper enclosed).

27. Presentations from European Surveying Organisations

No presentation. It is generally agreed to leave this item on the agenda to get presentations by other organisations.

G. Schennach reports about contacts to WPLA who asked for assistance by CLGE. At the end of 2003 WPLA will have drafted guidelines for PublicPrivatePartnership and CLGE will be contacted for consultation and comments.

28. Election of Members of the Standing Committee and Auditors

Decision: General Assembly elects the following members of Standing Committee unanimously without abstentions by show of hands.

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| North West | Martin Coulson (UK) |
| North East | Seija Vanhanen (FIN) |
| West | Mark Wijngaarde (NL) |
| Central | Rudolf Kolbe (AUT) |
| South | Emmanuel Ouranos (GR) |

29. Regional and National Reports

Switzerland: The Association will change the name from Schweizerischer Verein für Vermessung und Kulturtechnik to Geosuisse. Journal name will be changed to GeomaticSuisse.

The famous EPF Lausanne wants to stop with the academic education for geodesy.

The Netherlands: Seven associations involved into GI will merge into a new association named GIN Geo Informatie Nederland. The foundation will be published on 23 October 2003 during the national congress for surveyors in Utrecht/NL.

30. Action List

Vice-President will prepare the action list and circulate it directly to delegates.

31. Dates and Venues of the Following General Assemblies

M. Coulson gives further information on the autumn General Assembly organised by RICS: start on Friday 3 Oct 2003, 9.00 in the Council Chamber, followed by a buffet lunch and continue General Assembly in the afternoon. Friday evening there will be a reception

in the big wheel followed by a hosted dinner. On Saturday 4 Oct 2003 start at 9.30 with national presentations on three technical subjects: new GPS - old maps, digital cadastre for UK and education focussing on change of university full courses. End of meeting around 12.00. Accompanying persons visit of the House of Commons and the new Tate Gallery. For Saturday evening tickets can be arranged for theatre on request.

3 Hotels with special rates about 100.-- € have been chosen. Venue of the meeting will be the headquarters of RICS near the Houses of Parliament in London.

SC on 2 Oct 2003 starting in the middle of the afternoon, a room from 14.00-19.00 is booked.

K. Rürup suggests for Saturday morning national presentations rather than a technical lecture. M. Coulson sees it more as asking for inputs and showing present problems they have.

Autumn meeting 2003 3-4 Oct 2003, UK, Venue London, RICS Headquarter

Spring meeting 2004 Proposal by Germany

V. Teetzmann proposes 23/24 April 2004, venue Berlin

Reinhardstrasse, BDVI office. Hotel arrangements will be made by BDVI staff. SC 22 April 2004.

Program as usual. Tour to Reichstag. Dinner Friday hosted by BDVI probably in Parlamentarische Gesellschaft Building.

Everything in walking distance. Saturday morning meeting about professional situation in Germany. Program will be prepared by V. Teetzmann. Discuss perspectives of regulated professions.

Proposal by Slovakia, venue Bratislava

Thursday SC, Friday GA, Saturday seminar with three topics.

Dinner hosted by SK association.

Final date to be fixed in the autumn GA in London.

proposal by Sweden, venue can be in the South in Malmö, or North in Kiruna in the Ice Hotel, or in Stockholm.

Autumn meeting 2004

Spring Meeting 2005

32. Any Other Business

none

33. Thanks, Presentations and Closing

K. Rürup thanks the hosts. President K. Rürup closes the meeting with thanks to all participants for this good meeting.

Gerda Schennach, Secretary General

Enclosures: Participation list
 Hearing Mutual Recognition
 Final draft of Market Report (circulated in meeting)
 Final draft of Statutes revised by SC and GA