



10 August 2004

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLGE
Berlin, 23-24 April 2004

MINUTES

Venue Restaurant “**Französischer Hof**“, Jägerstrasse 56, 10117 Berlin

General Assembly I, Friday 23 April 2004, 9.00-12.00

1. Opening

CLGE President K. Rürup opens the General Assembly with thanks to the German Association of Publicly Appointed Surveyors BDVI for hosting the event. V. Teetzmann, President of BDVI welcomes the participants and gives some explanations about the German capital Berlin and its history. A short overview about the organisation and activities of BDVI shows the situation in Germany. K. Rürup welcomes as special guests H. Graeff, President of the German Association for Surveying DVW, and CEPLIS Vice-President J. Ferguson. Both organisations keep close links with CLGE.

2. Roll Call and Apologies of Absence

Secretary-General takes the roll call. Apologies have been received from J. Anneveld, R. Dhur and F. Peckels. A participation list is enclosed.

Three new delegates are welcome to the General Assembly: J.-F. Vatre from FRA, W.v. Pijkeren from the NL and J-Y. Pirlot from BEL.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Minutes from General Assembly in London, 3-4 October 2003

Decision: General Assembly adopts the minutes as circulated by email on 11 Nov 2003 without amendments or comments unanimously.

5. Report from Executive Board

President K. Rürup reports about meetings which have been attended by him:

- 8 Nov 2003, CLGE Executive Board meeting in Bottrop/Germany
- 10 Nov 2003, CEPLIS meeting in Brussels/Belgium
- 29 Nov - 6 Dec 2003, FIG Regional Seminar in Marrakech/Morocco
- 6 - 7 Feb 2004, CLGE Executive Board meeting in Innsbruck/Austria
- 9 March 2004, CEN meeting on standards in Brussels/Belgium

- 10 March 2004, BDVI Meeting in Magdeburg

Most of the work of the Executive Board of CLGE has been flavoured by discussions how to put the new structure into practice. As a first result the Executive Board can present a draft working plan for the coming period. Besides the Executive Board has taken a number of strategic decisions e.g. about further membership of CLGE in CEPLIS. CEPLIS Vice-President Ferguson will give a background information about this European forum later on in a presentation.

The Secretary-General has drafted new Internal Rules following the decision about the new structure and statutes of CLGE in the last General Assembly in London.

CLGE is involved into discussions of several issues on European level. Vice-President V. Slaboch will give a brief survey about educational topics. There have been presentations about CLGE in several events all over Europe. A general Power Point presentation is available from the Secretary-General.

President K. Rürup introduces Mr. J. Ferguson, the Vice-President of CEPLIS. His profession is pharmacist. Mr. Ferguson thanks for the invitation to speak to the General Assembly and gives some information about CEPLIS (paper circulated in meeting). The organisation is organised by a small staff working very efficiently. It can be considered as partnership and independent organisation to represent SME towards the institutions of the EU. Trade unions are a strong counterpart in many negotiations and it is CEPLIS who is seen as voice in discussions on social dialogue. CEPLIS has been successful in the past, as it tries to take part in activities, when things are drafted and not after they have arrived in the deciding institutions. Mr. Bedossa who is member of the CEPLIS Board, is appointed very often as rapporteur in the EU procedures. Another member of the Board was appointed as candidate for MEP. Main activities in the last two years activities were arranging three seminars to present ideas mainly to Mr. J. Stoodley from the EC or to Mr. S. Zappala, MEP and in this function involved into the procedures to pass the directive on mutual recognition. Most of the amendments have been accepted. The final statement of the EU Commission is expected on 4 May 2004.

Individual members get a lot of information by the digital CEPLIS Telegram. A website is under construction to make all the documentation available.

Future plans for CEPLIS are to be a platform for professional bodies to discuss items on training, education e.a. with the Commission. The Directive on services is redrafted. The regulations on the country of origin cause a lot of discussion. The CEPLIS President and the Director of the Commission had regular meetings to discuss the implementation of origin principles. The intention is to allow no restrictions for any professional regulation. Mrs. Fröhlinger from the EC is the key person in this process. She will present a paper to CEPLIS in June 2004.

Disc: R. Kolbe asks about members of CEPLIS and how well it is known in the EU and in the public and about contacts to the EP. J. Ferguson explains that the members of CEPLIS are organised in an interprofessional and a monoprofessional group. Geodetic surveyors are the only engineers among the members. It is not possible to co-ordinate all interests because of the various interests (50 professions) but they can speak via CEPLIS with one voice. There were three meetings in the EP to discuss the draft Directive and a compromise was accepted at the end.

O. Schuster supports the work of CEPLIS and considers it as a benefit that the thinking about services in the EU has become different as it can be seen from the draft paper on competition. The profession needs several groups in Europe to act from different directions.

Vice-President V. Slaboch reports about his activities. He visited conferences in CZ, POL, SK where he gave presentations of CLGE activities. A special paper on position of surveyors and mutual recognition and cross-border moving was presented in Nov 2003 in Brno/CZ. A meeting in Prague with representatives of EU was held to discuss the accession. The EU has told Czech representatives that the professions are too much regulated and show too much regulation on

qualification and professional issues and practice.

A meeting in Paris with A. Gaudet, the President of the Ordre des Géomètres-Experts, was held for launching an EU project on PPP. The project is postponed due to delays in preparation and building up a French language group. Statutes will be drafted until the next meeting at the FIG Working Week of Athens in May 2004. It is not a preparation for separation from FIG or CLGE, but it is to stress the need for the French language.

EEGECS is a EU project to establish a thematic network for Education in Geodetic Engineering, Cartography and Surveying in Europe. A brochure about the Socrates Program and Report 1 of the DG for Education and Culture has been published already. More information is available from www.top.upv.es/eegecs or <http://www.top.upv.es/eegecs/main.asp>.

6. CLGE Working Plan

H. Elmstroem presents the Working Plan for 2003-2005 following the draft of the Executive Board (see enclosure).

The main issues are to organise a one-day seminar on specific topics and a two-day seminar in every election period. The first two-day seminar will take place in autumn 2005 and will be based on a research grant to the key speakers and will be open to invited guests from adjacent organisations. The seminar must be reported in press releases, articles in magazines and in a report which is printed and delivered to the members and to other relevant receivers.

Disc. S. Enemark asks about focus areas to be addressed in the seminar. It will be the educational sector, modular systems and the Bologna agreement for the next year seminar. R. Kolbe asks about the research grant and the schedule for the adoption by the General Assembly. H. Elmstroem replies that this will be done not later than in the next Executive Board meeting. He proposes for the one-day seminar to deal with what Bologna means in general and in specific to our profession. The seminars will not be held at the same time as the General Assembly but it will be tried to find a convenient place for the attendants at low costs.

Notification: General Assembly takes notice of the Working Plan 2003-2005 as presented with comments as written in minutes.

7. Report by Treasurer

Treasurer R. Sonney presents the accounts for 2003 and gives explanations about financial issues as expected in 2004. All relevant papers have been circulated with the agenda to this General Assembly.

Some of the member countries have not yet paid their fees. The deadline will be 1 July if the proposed Internal Rules are adopted.

8. Auditors Report and Adoption of Accounts 2003

Auditor R. Dhur is not attending the General Assembly. Secretary-General reports that R. Dhur has sent an apology and reads the letter: He states about the auditing, that he has checked the balance sheet, the Profit and Loss account and all the indications that had been sent to him by R. Sonney and that he declares this indications as to be correct. He thanks R. Sonney for the good work, that he had done like every year. The other auditor G. Rando agrees to the report as well.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the report of the auditors and the annual accounts for 2003 unanimously without abstentions and without any objections.

9. CLGE Website

The status of the Allan Report is from 1995 and needs to be updated. The participation of all delegates is required to do this properly Two documents concerning EU studies could be used for

this. A questionnaire about qualification in all member countries will be submitted to all delegates soon. There are already two lists of educational institutions available on the web, one in the proceedings of the Delft seminar about institutions in Europe and the other in the CLGE/GE Market Report.

The website needs to be updated for the national parts by the members themselves. Delegates resp. responsible persons are requested to update the national parts continuously or at least post the links to the national websites using the form on the CLGE website. In case of problems contact the webmaster via www.clge.org or V. Slaboch or G. Schennach.

10. CLGE Internal Rules

H. Elmstroem gets roughly through the final version of the Internal Rules which have been prepared by the Secretary-General and which have been circulated with the agenda.

Paragraph 5.3 needs to be adjusted to define the majority "of the Principal Members present" (two times in this paragraph). The correct text reads as following:

5.3 Extraordinary Budgets

In cases where exceptional expenditure is envisaged, the General Assembly may, and without prior notice, agree with a 2/3 majority of the Principal Members present that an extraordinary budget is justified. In ratifying the amount of the expenditure, the General Assembly shall decide upon how it is to be funded and may impose stage payments or similar such conditions.

Extraordinary budgets exceeding 50 per cent the sum of the ordinary budget shall need a 3/4 majority of the Principal Members present vote for adoption by the General Assembly.

Disc: O. Schuster complains that GE is not mentioned in the Internal Rules. GE is considered in the Statutes. R. Mahoney asks about language. This is regulated in Statutes as well.

Decision: General Assembly adopts Internal Rules as presented with changes in 5.3 as quoted above unanimously without abstentions and objections.

11. Promoting CLGE in the public

Unfortunately R. Dhur is not attending the General Assembly and therefore a final draft for the CLGE flyer is not available for discussion. Therefore this item is not discussed further and postponed to the autumn General Assembly.

12. Dates and Venues of the Following General Assemblies

J. Hardos gives a report about preparations for the next General Assembly in Bratislava. Accommodation and venue for the meeting will be in the Hotel Devin, Riečna 4, Bratislava. On Friday evening a reception by the Major of Bratislava is on the schedule and afterwards there will be a dinner in a wine restaurant near the hotel in the historical centre of Bratislava. The special room rate is negotiated for Single or Double room around 90,-- Euro. Some services like swimming pool are included in the room rate, other services like squash, sauna e.a. are on extra charge. The temperature will vary between 15-25°C. The best way to get to Bratislava is by car, train or direct flight or via Airport Vienna and from there by a regular bus shuttle starting frequently.

On Saturday morning the hosts will organise a special meeting on situation on cadastre on the web, land consolidation, education and regulated profession in Slovakia.

Autumn meeting 2004 Bratislava, Slovakia, Fri-Sat 1-2 Oct 2004

Spring meeting 2005 Sweden, venue Kiruna, Fri-Sat 8-9 April 2005

S. Astermo informs about the venue in Kiruna. Delegates will stay in the Ice hotel for one night, from Friday – Saturday 8 –9 April 2005. The temperature C in the hotel will be around –5° C, sleeping bags are available for guests. All rooms are already pre-booked. The Executive Board

starts on 7 April 2005. Flights from Stockholm are only once a day at noontime.

Autumn meeting 2005 proposal by Portugal, venue Porto,
date to be fixed in autumn 2004

13. Any Other Business

P. Burke asks about the 12 stars in the CLGE logo and possibility to adapt this to 25 after 1 May 2004. G. Schennach explains that the 12 stars do not represent the member states (which are at the moment 15) but represent a cultural, traditional sign for the EU councilary function.

General Assembly II, Friday 23 April 2004, 14.00-17.15

Presentation of the situation of surveying in Germany in 4 short lectures

“The public surveying sector in Germany” (*see enclosure*) by *Hagen Graeff, President of DVW*

Disc: Questions about rates for contracting out tasks to the private sector, about financing of surveying tasks and competence regulations between private and public sector were raised by the audients. There is an option for all citizens to chose between private and public sector for real estate surveying in most of the German states, there is no difference in the rates between private and public offices. Valuation is regulated in a Federal law and valid in all states. Prices are collected in a German wide database.

“Education of surveying engineers in Germany” (*see enclosure*) by *Stefan Rieke from BDVI Office*

Disc: On request about the number of students applying for the profession S. Rieke explains that 70 - 80 % of the students would be sufficient for the market. The high number of students is a consequence of no restricted entry (*numerus clausus*) for geodesy in Germany. About 300 - 400 ÖBVI have been educated at Fachhochschulen. The market for property surveying is decreasing, in 1998 350 000 subdivisions were carried out each year, it has decreased to 110 000.

“SAPOS – a modern Reference-Network System” (*see enclosure*) by *Wolfgang Draken, Surveying and Geoinformation of Lower Saxony*

Disc: Questions about the organisation. SAPOS is an initiative of a working group of 16 countries in Europe, funded by the states on their own.

“The ÖbVI in Germany and European aspects” (*see enclosure*) by *Volkmar Teetzmann, President of the BDVI*

Disc: The discussion deals with questions about the infringement process against Germany on the compatibility of the ÖBVIs professional rights with the regulations of the EU. Further questions are brought to the stage about the amendments for the ÖBVIs in the EU Directive for mutual recognition of qualification and about the statement for the Austrian surveyors in the proceedings for the Directive denying their authority for state duties.

All presentation slides are enclosed as well as obtainable from CLGE website.

General Assembly III, Saturday 24 April 2004, 9.30-12.50

14. CEPLIS/GATS/ESF and Platform Conference

J. Ferguson has already given a report about the present situation in CEPLIS in the first part of the General Assembly.

Vice-President H. Elmstroem chairs a discussion about the relation between CEPLIS and CLGE.

O. Schuster reports about GE and the Platform Conference and strikes ideas about the future of the profession in the market and in the EU. He reminds that globalisation affects mainly non-regulated professions and therefore it has to be considered, not to stay in the global politics. From his point of view CEPLIS and especially some of the officers offer excellent contacts to the EU, which is essential for CLGE as well. Therefore he promotes to stay in CEPLIS, above all their visions have changed and they are very active now.

Parallel discussions on services and markets are going on in ESF and GATS. ESF was founded only as a counterpart to GATS. The WTO meeting in Cancun was followed by a delay as the upcoming countries do not accept the open market. The organisation of a world wide market comes into a situation, where it is not clear which structures will be the dominant ones, especially as the liberal professions are considered as part of the infrastructure and not to be part of the market. But many branches of the liberal professions can survive only with fixed prices.

GE is a small organisation and in co-operation with CLGE it can act as a bigger organisation to fight for a better position in the market for the single person. The pre-condition is a high entrance qualification into the profession. The EU wants to open the fences and to ensure cross-border services and to restrict situations like in Germany, where cross-border services are not possible even between the states. For this reason the accord multilateral was established under the conditions of the upcoming EU Directive on Mutual Recognition. A letter from the lower administration level of the EC shows support for this accord. National states are strengthening their support for this. Objections are from France and Germany to leave the negotiations to private organisations. The Austrian government is willing to sign the accord, but the situation can change. GE will organise a workshop in October or November 2004 with the aim, that the organisations sign the paper and recognise the importance of BAC+5 as minimum qualification for the profession. The next step in the next half year will be to find European visionaries to promote the idea and to establish an institution for migration consulting. Influence on the EU level can be gained only if there are a high number of persons behind. The Market Report shows the power behind the profession and the market. The scientific side needs the best people to define new directions within geodesy and to define the profession itself. CLGE can take over the task to contact universities to discuss their progress.

Disc: J-J. Derwael considers the society of academics responsible for these activities. E. Ouranos sees not really any opportunities for the profession to work in the internal market. He sees too many differences in the legal systems between the different EU member states which prohibit professionals from free movement. R. Kolbe tries to clarify that our aim for the moment should be to enable professionals to work cross-border within a circle of about 50 km. Longer distances are not the intention for our SMEs. K. Rürup considers regulations as a guarantee for the market for the professionals. S. Enemark reminds that the discussion has been going on for years and that a lot of goals have been attained. We should build on the lot of work already done by FIG, CLGE, GE e.a. and not to start from scratch again. Mutual recognition is a topic of qualification not for getting a job. V. Slaboch supports the ideas of O. Schuster but he considers CEPLIS not to provide enough information, e.a. he has no information about the accord multilaterale or any other activity.

H. Elmstroem refers to the words of the CEPLIS Vice-President and puts forward a tentative conclusion stating that CLGE stays as member in CEPLIS. The membership fee is to be shared between CLGE and GE in a ration of 60% to 40%.

R. Kolbe objects to a decision about further membership in CEPLIS. K. Rürup replies that in the past the influence for CLGE was very high by B.Bour as CEPLIS President. For the incoming elections in June 2004 CLGE was invited to nominate a candidate for the Executive Board. This

proves that CLGE is considered an important member within the CEPLIS membership. J.-C. LANDRY supports the idea of staying in CEPLIS very strongly. V. Slaboch expresses concerns about the work of CEPLIS. He sees a lack of transparency from CEPLIS to the members and to the public. J. Kaufmann thinks that information flow already has improved and will be even better in future and he supports to stay in CEPLIS. G. Schennach supports the idea only if we use our influence by sending a candidate to the Standing Committee and steer the direction of CEPLIS activities. O. Schuster sees a possibility for steering the organisation. R. Mahoney supports this idea and promotes a decision under the condition that things change.

H.Elmstroem concludes on the discussion stating that

- the Executive Board will follow the development of CEPLIS closely
- the Executive Board will seek the best possible position of the CLGE representative in CEPLIS
- the fee to CEPLIS will be shared between CLGE and GE in the ratio 40:60
- that CLGE continues as a member of CEPLIS

Decision: General Assembly decides to stay in CEPLIS unanimously without abstentions and objections.

15. Report on Liaison with the European Commission

M. Wijngaarde, Vice-President for EU relations reports about his ideas how to develop contacts to the institutions of the EC (presentation slides enclosed). There are still EU countries not members in CLGE, especially some of the accession countries. CLGE can assist through personal contacts or by assisting in development of professional associations in these countries.

Disc: Question about how to finance these activities. CLGE will try to find funding from the EU. There are intentions to start a Working Party on this topic and to check contacts to the EC to find the right contact persons.

16. EU Directive on Mutual Recognition of professions

Topic already handled in items before.

17. Presentations from European Surveying Organisations

none

18. National Reports by Delegates and Representatives of new EU members

- Report by Polish Delegate Ziemak about the Surveying Society in **Poland**. The organisation counts 25000 members from business and public sector. A surveying law is not yet passed due to many discussions between the different interest groups. The situation with licensing is different to Germany, in Poland professionals need a license for each kind of job. Licenses are granted by the government in Warsaw, the minimum qualification is a university degree and practice. A Polish license is needed to work in Poland, but any foreigner can get a license on request. The general administration wants to extend these licenses. The market had an economic boom in the late 90s, then it was weak and now it is improving again. Major impact for the market by reconstruction of buildings, subsidising for agriculture with database, maps requirements e.a..

There are no fixed prices at all for surveyors, some attempts to regulate prices in the past failed.

Disc: O. Schuster considers it necessary to change regulations on licenses after acceding the EU.

- J.-J. Derwael reports that **Belgium** has a bilingual federal board for geodetic surveyors with 2 x

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8 persons (Flamish, French)in the board. Real estate information agency has been established. A detailed report will be given in the next General Assembly.

- W. v. Pijkeren gives a report of the present situation in the **Netherlands**. There is a visible change from geodesy to geoinformation applications and spatial information services. In Feb 2004 at the celebration of the 125-years anniversary of the National Committee for Geodesy a discussion about further existence occurred. Markets have changed as well in the NL with a big recession in 2003 caused by few activities in building industry. The principle in the NL government is "hand off, eyes on" for contracting out, but at the moment no budget is left for contracting out activities. The Geo-ICT companies are not so much affected by the recession. A national programme for Geo-Information has started with a budget of 20 mio Euro for research and geo-information applications. The private sector is nearly not involved.

GIN – Geo-Information-Netherlands is a new association which emerged in Oct 2003 from former different associations. VNBG – Association of Dutch Private Companies is another association, working closely together with GIN. www.vnbg.nl with special section for and link to CLGE.

At university level there are some changes as well. The faculty of geodesy in Delft has stopped. BSC level is offered in Utrecht at geodesy and geo-information or hydrography at Terschelling maritime university. Msc level can be passed within other courses in Delft, Twente, Wageningen, Utrecht.

Disc: S. Enemark sees a lesson to be learnt from NL, this trend will happen to all of us. US magazines predict for the future only three main areas which are Biotechnology, Geotechnology and Nanotechnology. Programs need to be changed to reflect the trend and should include more management skills. Our challenge is to discuss our own identification for the future. R. Mahoney sees it an important issue to find out what society is expecting from us and not to leave it to any other profession and to get lost professional tasks.

- P. Burke reports about **Ireland**. Students have graduated in geomatics for the first time this year. The Ordnance Survey of Ireland has just introduced a system similar to SAPOS for Ireland. A report titled "Best Practice Guidelines for Precise Surveying in Ireland" has been published and is available for 30,-- Euros. CLGE delegates may obtain it for 10,-- Euros mailing fees from <http://www.irish-surveyors.ie>
- J. Hardos thanks for the letters to the **Slovak** President, Prime Minister and President of Parliament to object to the abolishment of chambers. The consequence was that the draft of the law has been postponed. It is a big chance to delay the abolishment of chambers.

19. Thanks, Presentations and Closing

President K. Rürup closes the General Assembly with thanks to the hosts.

Gerda Schennach, Secretary General

Enclosures: *Participation List*
 CEPLIS Report by J. Ferguson (circulated in meeting)
 Working Plan 2003-2005
 Internal Rules adopted version
 Slides H. Graeff, S. Rieke, W. Draken, V. Teetzmann
 Slides W. Pijkeren
 Liaison with EC by M. Wijngaarde

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