

**The Council of European
Geodetic Surveyors
CLGE**

Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens



CLGE goes Mediterranean

By Mark R. Wijngaarde, Vice President of CLGE for European Relations

What is CLGE and what is the purpose and objectives of this European organization?

The purpose and objectives of the CLGE, as the Platform for European Geodetic Surveyors is to represent and promote the interests of the geodetic surveying profession in the private and public sectors in Europe, especially to the Institutions of the European Union.

- Creation of a permanent forum for European geodetic surveyors, who are committed to European co-operation, characterised by a spirit of partnership
- Promotion and exchange of technical, scientific, educational and organisational 'know-how' within the European states, and the provision of assistance in dealing with issues arising from different conditions in various CLGE member States
- Provision of assistance to member countries, to national associations and EU institutions on request
- Cultivation of relations between the professional groups representing European geodetic surveyors in CLGE
- To demonstrably support the European Institutions in all relevant undertakings and, in particular, to co-operate with and assist the European Commission in the mutual recognition of qualifications for academic and professional purposes.
- To contribute within the European jurisdiction on professional matters
- Stimulate and facilitate the enhancement of standards of academic and professional qualifications, improving service to customers and the quality of outputs within the geodetic surveying market throughout Europe.

The CLGE was established at the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres (F.I.G.) Congress in Wiesbaden in 1972 by the 9 member States of the EEC to consider the implementation of the Treaty of Rome in relation to the profession of geodetic surveying.

Since then CLGE has represented geodetic surveyors in 23 European States, which includes 20 member states together with Norway, Switzerland and Bulgaria. CLGE has an official name in two European languages English and French, "The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors" and "Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens". The two languages are used because the business of the council is conducted in English, and the language of the European Courts of Justice is French. The accepted abbreviation in all languages is "CLGE".

Besides these purposes and objectives of the CLGE the aim of this European professional organization is to enhance the development of the profession administratively, educationally and scientifically. In addition it aims to facilitate training, continuous professional development and mutual recognition together with the promotion of geodetic surveyors as a highly qualified profession

Being committed to this purpose, CLGE has the following main objectives:

- Presentation of the geodetic surveying profession to the European public and authorities.
- Active participation in pertinent legislative processes at European level.
- Participation in, and membership of, organizations and associations that embrace CLGE's aims and objectives.

Globalization means that CLGE activities sometimes cross European borders and in 2005 CLGE was invited to two international Mediterranean events:- in Palermo Italy, October 2005, where the Italian Council of Surveyors held its 43rd Congress; and outside Europe in Rabat the capital of Morocco in November 2005, where the Moroccan National Order of Surveying Engineers held its 4th Congress.

The 43rd Congress of the Italian Council of Surveyors

The Italian Council of Surveyors, one of the CLGE members, one of the largest Surveyors Unions in Europe, had invited to this 43rd Congress, within the scope of an international day, the CLGE vice president for professional practice Alain Gaudet, who also represented the Ordre des Géomètres (Experts of France) as President of this organization, Professor Holger Magel FIG president, Paul Munro-Faure, chief of land tenure service of FAO, and both presidents of Geometer Europas and EGOS. During this international day, Professor Holger Magel reported his views and perspectives of the surveyors' role in society, and their need to be committed to the sustainable development of our planet. Alain Gaudet and Otmar Schuster, as president of Geometer Europas, presented their ideas about the need for high level standards of training for surveyors in Europe, and about the specific role of liberal surveyors in the European society.

During his introduction Alain Gaudet, with his double mandate, underlined again the aim of CLGE in promoting high levels of professional competence for its members, implying high levels of training and the provision of high quality services.

As an example of this goal he informed the audience that some CLGE members have even asked for CLGE's assistance to help them to upgrade their standards, sometimes against the will of their governments.

Alain also explained about the CLGE's position which is based upon the belief that the core of our profession is to provide good administration and secure property titles in the land and real estate markets. The tools we use and the services we provide are essential to guarantee land property and efficient land administration. This demand usually requires a two-fold training, in surveying techniques and law, which cannot be completed without a long period of study. The Ordre des Géomètres (Experts in France) has recently ordered a survey to gain information about surveying training programs in Europe, which showed that two thirds of these programs were at the bac+5 level (5 years after graduation from secondary school).

Alain stated in his address that this standard is justified by the skills required from the profession, i.e. both technical skills for measurements, and legal skills for counselling and he expressed the view that an exclusively technical training would enable cartographers to encroach upon our profession, and that an exclusively legal training would open the same door to lawyers. Our originality depends upon our dual training, and this feature is well appreciated by all our customers, either individuals or local authorities, etc.

This belief was the reason that CLGE signed the Accord Multilateral, which has been drafted by Geometer Europas, and its president Otmar Schuster.

Focussing on the European directive on professional qualifications, which has recently been adopted, Alain underlined the fact that CLGE is in favour of this, since European surveyors embrace the concept of free circulation of professionals. We are worried, however, that there is a risk of an insufficient level of qualifications being required from the European professional, and we therefore call upon all our European colleagues to work together in order to establish a common professional platform, which would allow us to present a unified position to the European institutions.

Based on this fresh development CLGE had adapted a working plan for 2005-2007 by creating a Task Force to study this important issue and to determine how to effectively represent its interests and the quality of the services offered.

In his conclusion Alain reminds the audience that our world is evolving very quickly, and the changes that our profession has had to face have radically altered our working methods, and it is very likely that other drastic changes will soon take place. Moreover public opinion and sensitivity to the various aspects of sustainable development are growing. Since computing technologies put measurement techniques increasingly within the reach of a growing number of technicians, in order to survive, our profession has to adapt. CLGE in close cooperation with the National CLGE member organizations should develop counselling activities in order to

promote the best practices for land management. The importance of legal training should therefore, grow at the expense of technical training.

This should allow the European surveyors to be active in land management and environmental landscape markets among others. We, as the platform for European surveyors, should demonstrate that there can not be sustainable development without efficient land management, and that the surveyors are the only professionals able to master both the technical and the legal tools required for this type of development

It is hoped that the Italian National Council of Surveyors and the “The Council of European Geodetic Surveyors” (CLGE) will be able to jointly participate in this process, in order to guarantee the best service to our customers, through the best possible training. This was one of the achievements of the international day at the 43rd Congress in Palermo. There are continuous discussions between Italian Council of Surveyors and Geometer Europas concerning the Accord Multilateral. All participants stated their willingness to further develop of bilateral and multilateral relations with the Italian Consiglio Nazionale Geometri.



From left to right: Francois Mazuyer, vice president of the French Ordre des Geometres Experts (OGE), Piero Panunzi, president of the Consiglio Nazionale Geometri, Alain Gaudet Vice president of the CLGE and President of the French Ordre des Geometres Experts (OGE) and Pierre Bibollet, first vice president of the French Ordre des Géomètres Experts (OGE)

The 4th Congress of the Moroccan National Order of Surveying Engineers

Crossing the Mediterranean Alain Gaudet represented the CLGE at the 4th Congress of the Moroccan Ordre National des Ingenieurs Géomètres-Topographes (ONIGT) in Rabat in November 2005.

The Ordre National des Ingenieurs Géomètres-Topographes is a young organization, though it has already been involved in a number of successful national and international events, either on its own or in close cooperation with the FIG, for example the Conference in Marrakech in 2003.

The Congress was not only well attended by the Moroccan and international professional surveyors, but by a large number of Moroccan students. In addition a number of Moroccan ministers showed interest in the problems of land administration in Morocco, which was one of the major themes of the Congress.

A long list of important recommendations in this field was prepared by the ONIGT, and adopted by the participants.

Alain Gaudet forwarded CLGE's best wishes for success to the ONIGT, as well as to the Arab Federation of Surveyors, which also participated in the Congress in Rabat. He expressed the interest of CLGE in border crossing communication and interchange of new developments in the fields of techniques and education

Just before the inauguration of the Moroccan Congress another important event took place in Rabat. A new federation of francophone surveyors was created by delegates from 17 countries in and outside Europe and the CLGE vice president for professional practice, Alain Gaudet, was elected as the first president of this federation.

The reason for creating this organization was based on the fact that FIG had decided to abandon French as a working language and to work exclusively in English. The francophone surveyors considered that they have a common language and common values, based on the "International Francophonie" principles, which are committed to democracy and sustainable development.

This federation will also contribute to secure land tenure issues, which is one of the aims of the CLGE, and it is intended to forge a close working relationship with our colleagues in this new francophone organization.