



15 October 2006

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLGE
St. Julian's/Malta, 15-16 September 2006**

MINUTES

Venue **The Westin Dragonara Resort, St Julian's, Malta**

General Assembly I, Friday 15 September 2006, 9.00-12.00

1. Opening

President H. Elmstroem opens the session with a welcome to B. Lipej, representative of EuroGeographics and the local organizer R. Camilleri with special thanks to him for hosting this General Assembly of CLGE. Vice-President V. Slaboch is still ill but recovering from his health problems. All delegates send best greetings to him.

The President welcomes Mr. Francis Gabele (BEL) and Mr. Paul Corrigan (IRL) as new delegates and hands over CLGE pins.

2. Roll Call

Secretary-General G. Schennach takes the roll call. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal and Spain are not represented. The names of participants are listed in the enclosed list.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Frieda Brepoels, MEP and Rapporteur on INSPIRE in the Committee of Environment of the European Parliament, has been invited to the General Assembly and agreed to attend. Mrs. Bozena Lipej, chairperson of the EuroGeographics Expert Group on Cadastre and Land Registry will give a presentation about the activities of the Working Group. The Maltese Minister of rural affairs and environment will attend the seminar tomorrow. Due to this changes, the agenda needs to be slightly revised by adding the names of these guests.

Decision: General Assembly approves the Agenda as circulated with changes announced by H. Elmstroem.

4. Approval of Minutes of General Assembly in Cork/Ireland, 8-9 April 2006

H. Elmstroem asks for comments and amendments for the Minutes of the last General Assembly.

Decision: General Assembly adopts the Minutes as circulated to delegates without any comments or amendments.

5. Report by Executive Board

President H. Elmstroem

- reports that contacts to GE have improved very much and resulted in a joint office in Brussels. The CTF-EU (Common Task Force - EU) between CLGE and GE, sponsor plan, introducing a common vision on the GE Accord Multilateral, will be re-written in a short version for publication. One line sentence for topic of next seminar in France (to attract students for the profession), conference 2008 also on the way. Decided about a small

reception during FIG Congress, participation of CLGE representatives in national congresses. St. Malo meeting in France in June of OGE, 500 participated, meeting in Sweden about professional development.

Vice-President M. Wijngaarde reports about

- enhancing sponsoring for CLGE and indicates that J-Y. Pirlot will give a presentation on this topic later on
- enlargement attempts of CLGE. Some countries, especially those, who are members to the EU have been contacted to get them on board.
- a meeting of the CLGE Editorial Group attended by V. Teetzmann, J. Anneveld, R. Khouri and M. Wijngaarde himself. The aim is to get more publications outside CLGE in European media and on national level. A native speaker as additional member would be helpful.

Vice-President J-Y. Pirlot presents about sponsoring conditions. (see slides). Additional funding for CLGE might meet two main goals – enlargement purposes and for CTF-EU. He proposes 3 levels of sponsors - Premium sponsors with 4000,-- €year, First sponsors with 2000,-- €year and CLGE sponsors with 1000,-- €year.

Common rules for all levels of sponsors are that they

- receive all CLGE publications
- appear on CLGE publications as sponsors
- are informed about CLGE activities
- might use the CLGE logo linked to the term "sponsor"

Each level has additional special rules. CLGE sponsoring is done on European level, it is no intention for competition in sponsoring on national level. The promoting start for sponsorship will be in Oct 2006, sponsors might start with 2007. Possible sponsors will get letters and will be personally contacted.

Disc: C. Kiepke (GER) asks about the estimated amount and the spending of sponsor funds as it is an unknown amount of money. J. Anneveld (NL) considers it important to give sponsors clear conditions for their benefit and to describe goals for sponsoring. J-Y. Pirlot replies that this will be done by the letter and the following contacts.

Secretary-General G. Schennach reports about activities since the last General Assembly:

- proceedings of the Brussels CLGE Conference will be send out to all delegates next month
- the full text is already obtainable from website www.clge.eu
- she has organised the GI&GIS Workshop of the European Commission in Innsbruck in June 2006. 300 persons attended this 3-day conference. Several workshops as well as an EU INSPIRE Expert meeting (80 participants) took place before the event. More information can be found from www.ec-gis.org/workshops/12ec-gis
- an EGIN (European Network of GI) meeting in Innsbruck has decided to start with a contact point for the GI society in Brussels, probably in the rooms of EuroGeoSurveys. There is a need to group the interests of the GI people and to define a contact towards the EC.

6. CTF-EU

J-Y. Pirlot reports about the Common Task Force EU set up by CLGE and GE. The first meeting on 30 May 2006 defined the mandate, the priorities, the methods and means and a second meeting on 7 July 2006 was held to refine the means and methods and to plan the enhancement of the CLGE/GE visibility in the EU arena. Priorities will be taken to develop a vision for the profession, to increase visibility and to participate in the process for the Services Directive (see slides).

M. Wijngaarde was appointed as chairperson of the CTF-EU, V. Teetzmann (GER), F. Delfini (FRA), J-Y. Pirlot (BEL) are members and R. Kolbe (AUT) will contribute on occasional basis. O. Schuster will act as consultant on written invitation. The TF will be working by flexible planning of the meetings and will provide reports continuously to CLGE and GE and will make only recommendations to the two associations. The mandate has already presented to GE in the General Assembly on 21 June 2006 and to the CLGE Executive Board on 8 July 2006.

The CTF-EU requires a budget of €6000,--/year which will be shared 50:50 between GE and CLGE and additionally €12 000,-- for the Executive Director in Brussels, to be shared by €4000,-- by CLGE and €8000,-- by GE and €5200,-- for the office to be shared by €3200,-- from GE and €2000,-- from CLGE.

The travel expenses will follow the CLGE rules for reimbursement, the bookkeeping will be done by the Executive Director. Reports will be given to the boards regularly.

The first lobbying action was to invite MEP F. Brepoels to attend the General Assembly in Malta. The building in the Rue du Nord 76, BE-1000 Bruxelles, can become a European house of surveyors and geoinformation. There are facilities for meeting rooms for 15 persons less. One room can be used for 25-40 persons. The house is open to all associations for meetings on related issues on demand.

Disc: J. Anneveld asks about the owner of the house and about the duration of the obligations for the building and for contributing to expenses for the Executive Director. J-Y. Pirlot explains that the house is owned by the Brussels land surveyors organisation, who is part of the Belgian association of land surveyors and that there is no written contract up to now. It is intended to stay for at least one year. R. Mahoney asks about the Executive Director, if the contribution goes to the individual or is funding to the employer? J-Y. Pirlot explains that there is a secretary and an Executive Director, who should work at least 2 days a week for CLGE and GE.

V. Teetzmann as well as F. Delfini support the idea of a house in Brussels and consider it important to keep contacts to the EU representatives and staff.

<p><i>Decision:</i> General Assembly agrees to the foundation of the CTF-EU and to the report to the General Assembly as presented by J-Y. Pirlot unanimously (DK and AT with no vote).</p>

7. CLGE Seminar spring 2007 and CLGE Conference autumn 2008

R. Khouri lines out the organisation plan for the CLGE Seminar in Lyon/France on 22 March 2007. A draft questionnaire will be sent to all delegates to assess the situation in the member states. A report on this data will be the starting point for the seminar. It is planned to have presentations about success stories in member associations (SWE, FRA, IRL) and to give universities the opportunity to comment on the situation. Contacts with EEGECS (European Education in Geodetic Engineering, Cartography and Surveying), a project based on a Spanish university, will be established. Volunteers are welcome to the organisation team. The papers of the seminar will be printed and even papers which are not presented will be taken into the proceedings.

An invitation list will be circulated to all delegates for amendments to get all university addresses. An early warning will be sent out soon.

Disc: R. Mahoney raises the question, what is currently happening with the people who are coming out universities and he suggests to take this situation to investigate, to which direction the profession is going. R. Khouri explains that the topic for the CLGE Conference 2008 will actually focus on this issue.

F. Delfini reports about plans for the CLGE Conference 2008 in Strassbourg, which will jointly be organised with the Ordre des Géomètre-Experts as an European Congress on 24-26 Sept 2008 under the headline "What is the role of the surveyor in the European society".

The French association has just started to reflect to this item, 2-3 regional WGs are working on this in France.

8. Budget 2007

Treasurer R. Sonney reports about missing membership fees. The Budget 2007 shows more income than before, which occurs from reimbursement from CEPLIS to CLGE for payments for 5-6 years done in the past. Sponsoring is a new category of income, it is estimated with €10 000,--/year. Another new item in the Budget 2007 are the enlargement activities, which are budgeted with €

6000,-- for travel costs to national assemblies to new members. An amount of €7000,-- is posted as a guarantee for the CLGE Seminar in Lyon and additionally €1000,-- for other activities for this seminar. The Budget 2007 is not balanced and shows a deficit of €5500,--, but in general it is estimated to have a benefit from the Seminar in Lyon.

H. Elmstroem explains that the Budget 2007 reflects the aim of the politics of CLGE.

Decision: Budget 2007 as presented by Treasurer is adopted by General Assembly unanimously.

9. CEPLIS / GE / ECEC

F. Delfini reports on behalf of GE President A. Gaudet, who is the officially nominated CLGE delegate in CEPLIS, on developments in CEPLIS. Mr. Bedossa left his office as president of CEPLIS before the end of term of office, the Vice-President took it over until the elections in the next meeting in October.

10. EU Directive on Services

F. Delfini gives an overview about the status of co-decision process on the Directive of Services. Since the last General Assembly in Cork the EC and the Council discussed the proposal as that without changing much. Now the discussion is done in the EP. The proposal facilitates exemptions for some services of notaries and other officially nominated activities of certain professions authorized by public authorities.

Disc: G. Schennach asks if the defined exclusion of professions on national level, an idea, which was brought in by the Austrian Presidency in the first term of 2006 is still valid?

11. Regional and National Reports

Poland: M. Ziemak reports on the situation in Poland, which will cause some changes for the surveying professionals. The new Chief Surveyor of Poland has promised to simplify the system but despite this vision the number of licenses has increased up to 8 in the meantime, which makes the situation for licensing more complicated than it was in 1989. Discussions in parliament are still going on. He suggests that CLGE should fight more the liberal profession.

UK: R. Mahoney gives an overview about a GI strategy project in the UK: A national GI panel has been appointed by DCLG ministers. The secretariat is run by Ordnance Survey. see www.gipanel.org.uk The most important issue for the start was to identify the key medium to long-term GI issues and to facilitate greater co-operation for common positions in legislative processes. The panel is a consulting body to address government with recommendations. More information on the NSDI structure can be obtained from enclosed slides.

A second topic which is currently discussed in UK is the Draft Marine Bill that will introduce within its area of responsibility a new framework for the seas, based on marine spatial planning, that balances conservation, energy and resource needs. More information see slides.

Disc: Questions about the role of the profession in the infrastructure.

IRL: P. Corrigan reports about education and land registry issues in Ireland.

France: R. Khouri gives an overview about a project called TERIA – the French real-time kinematic network, which is a unique project of professionals in France. The network is property of the association of the French licensed surveyors and with individual licensed surveyors (50% of them hold shares). Partners are IGN, CNRS, RENAG, ESGI and the association of French mayors. Slides for details are available from www.clge.eu

Switzerland: J. Kaufmann, President of geosuisse was invited to take part in the SIA (Swiss Assoc. of Engineers and Architects) meeting. He reports about the new Swiss law on geoinformation, which also deals with questions on licensing. The draft proposes a state exam

instead of the license, an official surveyors' register and new requirements in education, such as more legal, land management, business and project management subjects. The federal law on geoinformation has now been accepted by the federal council and has been passed to the parliament. The main contents of the law are quality and technical requirements, data capture and maintenance issues and access and utilization of data and will regulate the Swiss cadastre organization on confederation, cantonal and community level. The NGDI e-geo.ch is still struggling with no consolidated common view of all stakeholders. More details see slides on www.clge.eu

General Assembly II, Friday 15 September 2006, 14.00-17.00

12. EU Directive INSPIRE

Mrs. Frieda Brepoels, MEP, Member of the ENVI-Committee and acting as rapporteur for the INSPIRE Directive reports about the co-decision process and difficulties and different positions in the conciliation process. The paper "INSPIRE: Challenges and opportunities in the EU" highlights as well the background for the present situation and gives an impression about how difficult EU decision-processes are, if a lot of interest groups are involved and put forward their inputs. (Slides are enclosed).

Disc: R. Mahoney asks about the profile of INSPIRE, for which the benefits are clear. What can be done to promote INSPIRE to all stakeholders? It shows very clearly that it is always difficult to discuss on European level and as soon as topics get to local level with the implementation, the details become visible. Agreements on IPR, click licenses and financial compensation need to be found within the next months in the negotiations between EC and EP.

F. Delfini asks about the surveyors' role and how they can bring something into the discussion. F. Brepoels explains that the discussion is at the moment between MS and EP on how to tackle the problems of private providers? It could be helpful to involve the private sector for providing data.

G. Schennach points out that user requirements are not sufficiently defined in the recitals and that more clarification of terminology will be necessary to come to an agreement. The Drafting Teams for the implementation rules need to know about the final version of the Directive before getting further. Mrs. Brepoels considers it not the task of the EU to define details, the Directive is only a framework. It is up to the MS to contribute to such a system in their own way.

V. Teetzmann asks about the need of INSPIRE and why the private sector is excluded from the discussions. F. Brepoels sees options for the private sector, as it is up to the MS to decide if they hand tasks over to the private sector. Sharing of data between the different levels and authorities in the different MS has become essential for the new environmental situation, f.e. for cross-border activities on environment. The second issue is the access to public data by the public, but this is already assessed by the Directive for environmental data.

V. Teetzmann reflects to a remark in the Directive which says that the system should be open to the private sector, while some MS keep the system not open to the public.

B. Lipej states that Slovenia is very much looking forward to have a regulation on European level, on the other hand there are a lot of responsibilities within the MS and it needs to be considered how this it to be financed. Mrs. Brepoels sees a possibility to draft a model for financing the implementation of INSPIRE, although it seems that in most MS a good system, not only on the national level, serves funding. She reports about a visit to the Vienna house in Brussels, where a very good system of financing infrastructure services was presented.

13. Pan-European and International Organizations

B. Lipej, deputy Director General of the national mapping and cadastre authority of Slovenia, chairperson of the EuroGeographics Expert Group on Cadastre and Land Registry presents about future co-operation between private and public sector (slides are enclosed).

EuroGeographics is an umbrella organisation of 49 public agencies, who deal with mapping,

cadastre and geography, from 41 European countries. Its vision is to achieve interoperability for geographic data in Europe. The activity of the WG started in 2004 after EuroGeographics had opened membership to cadastre agencies, which are key players in real estate information and GI. The workplan of the WG includes actions in benchmarking, new vision for cadastre and land registry organizations, the role of the cadastral parcel in INSPIRE, SDIs in co-operation with PCC (Permanent Cadastral Committee), cross-border mortgaging and mortgage credit. PPP in cadastre is a topic as well. The project will provide and maintain common characteristics and will investigate on general information about land surveyors activities and professional standards. PPP in cadastre in practice will be demonstrated, to find a common way of working together.

Disc: H. Elmstroem invites the WG for co-operation. R. Khouri reflects on the draft workplan and states on behalf of GE president A. Gaudet that GE is fully ready to go along with the proposed steps. C. Kiepeke explains that in some European countries the private sector is part of public tasks. V. Teetzmann comments that the developing Europe makes it visible that we are touched by European developments. He proposes to consider the situation from a European perspective. M. Zieme proposes to compare the systems to get an idea about what is good or what is not good.

14. Dates and Venues of the Following General Assemblies

Spring meeting 2007	Lyon/France, 23-24 March 2007 CLGE Seminar on 22 March 2007
Autumn meeting 2007	Luxembourg, 19-20 Oct 2007, Centre Culturel de Recontre, Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg-Grund
Spring meeting 2008	proposal by CZ, date to be agreed later on, probably together with Geos, 1-3 March 2008
Autumn 2008	proposal by Poland for Warsaw or Krakow, date and venue to be agreed in next General Assembly

15. Any Other Business

The Executive Board has decided to organize a joint GE/CLGE reception within the XIII International FIG Congress in Munich. This reception will give the forum for the Lithuanian association of surveyors to sign the Accord Multilateral. Invitations will be sent out in time.

16. Closing

H. Elmstroem closes the General Assembly with thanks to the hosts from Malta for organizing the meeting and the surrounding and to all guests, to speakers and audients.

General Assembly III, Saturday 16 September 2006, 9.00-12.40

17. Opening address by the Honourable George Pullicino, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment

R. Camilleri, President of the Land Surveyors Society in Malta and organizer of the CLGE General Assembly welcomes all guests with an introductory speech as following:

"Good Morning ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce this session which highlights the surveying profession in Malta. A few months ago, three associations representing the surveyor, agreed to join efforts by setting up a task force to develop a strategic plan leading to professional recognition and warrant.

These three main organisations are:

- The Land Surveyors' Society – Malta (LSSM);
- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors – Malta (RICS Malta);
- The Malta Association for Geographical Information (MAGI).

The task force's objective is to obtain professional recognition for its members and establish the

methodology for the issuance of a warrant to practice the profession in accordance to the EU-Directive on Services in the Internal Market.

Malta is the only country within the EU that surveying degree courses are not obtainable locally, unless students proceed to universities overseas. Malta is one of the very few countries where surveying is not regulated by the state, hence surveyors are not recognised by the state as professionals. The number of individuals working in the survey disciplines is increasing and as rough they would add up to 150. MEPA employs the largest number of surveyors, whereas other surveyors are employed in the government sector and other corporations and authorities. The private sector too, has a substantial number of surveying personnel in their employment. There are at least three private surveying companies and most of the large building construction companies employ surveyors.

The profession has to be placed at par with other local and European counterparts.

Therefore the first step towards this goal would be to improve the educational standards by introducing degree courses through the university of Malta, and professional recognition by the state by issuing a warrant to practice the profession.

The Maltese Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Mr. George Pullicino, addressed the General Assembly with a speech pointing out the importance of the profession for economies and reflected to some issues which are at the moment discussed on national level.

It was a great honour for the General Assembly that the Minister stayed in the workshop for a while and gave possibility to discuss burning issues, brought forward mainly by the Maltese representatives.

18. Workshop on Maltese situation of profession

“The position of the Land Surveyor in Malta”

Randolph Camilleri, President of the Land Surveyors' Society Malta LSS, Malta

“The Chartered Surveyor in Malta”

Emidio Attard, Chairman of RICS Malta

“Challenges for setting up an Association for Geographic Information in Malta”

Carol Agius, Vice Chair of MAGI – Malta Association of GI Professionals, Malta

All slides of the presentations are available from www.clge.eu

Break-out Sessions focussed on topics, which are at the moment discussed in Malta and which were intended to create inputs from external positions to the discussions. The CLGE delegates who chaired the groups gave a short report about the results.

Session I – Education and International Recognition

Rapporteur S. Asterno reported that it was considered necessary to have recognition, either by an association or by law. It is essential to manage the risks when carrying out professional tasks. The group has discussed about the education in Malta and about models for a modular system and distance learning. All kind of models have been discussed. Finally it was proposed to co-operate with other universities and to establish a network with other associations to make use of options for education all over Europe. There is a strong need for a framework to put all kinds of the professions together.

Session II – Possibilities for regulation of the profession

Rapporteur M. Hiernaux points out that the situation of the profession is different from country to country. There is no regulation in IRL, other countries have regulations. It depends much on the definition of boundaries and systems. A code of ethics and other regulations are considered to be necessary at least. The number of claims is a good indicator for the rate of regulation. Quality standards for the work as well as regulations for private surveyor's standards need to be defined, as

surveyors do a lot on behalf of the public sector. B. Lipej adds that some of the issues should be developed further in the WG on PPP.

Session III – Licensing

Rapporteur C. Kiepke reports about 5 methods for licensing as found by the group. First to have an absolute free market – the reputation of the professionals and consumer protection rights might be a problem in this model. Second to build on diploma – which is sometimes an obstacle, if work can be done by lower qualified workers. Third option is to establish a license system – define it as individual or company license and for special tasks or as general license. Poland has such special licenses. A certification system might be another option for a special kind of license, where the license is proved every 3-4 years. Public appointed surveyors as practiced in France, Germany e.a. especially for cadastral work are feasible as well. EU Art 45, 43, 49 need to be considered in these systems, this restricts the options for the professionals. The final recommendation of the group is that CLGE should help to create a high reputation for the profession.

Final Panel Discussion with Prof. Alfred Vella, the Pro-Rector of the University of Malta, Prof. A. Torpiano, Professor of the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Malta, Randolph Camilleri, President of the MSS and Mrs. Carol Agius, GIS Development Officer in MEPA, Malta on the panel.

R. Camilleri states that the MSS wants to adapt a system that suits Malta locally and which is able to qualify surveyors fully for overseas. Professionals should get an education on top level, which is up to the universities. University training should be available in Malta at least for the first degree. Regarding licensing the MSS will take the recommendations from the break-out sessions. Recognition by the state is a first step.

Prof. A. Torpiano considers it to be too difficult for the universities to specialise qualification. A modular system could be an option for professional qualification, which should be separated from academic qualification as universities will never be able to produce surveyors for the market outside. A master in surveying will hardly be feasible, a general degree to prepare students for a MSc is the goal.

Pro-Rector A. Vella explains about the membership in the Maltese association. The qualification of architects and civil engineers includes course work for surveyors as well. He joins the idea of a modular system, although not all the moduls for a master's course will be on board. A complete solution may be too expensive for a country like Malta compared to the number of inhabitants, it might be affordable to start in Malta and finish abroad.

C. Agius sees already some of the basic moduls for surveyors as GIS, laws e.a. in Malta, but she considers a degree is not enough, it is necessary to have a high qualification.

R. Camilleri sums up the discussion with recommendation to specialize and to run for recognition by the state. The missing courses for surveyors at university in Malta cause a lack of professionals as study abroad is expensive for most of them. He sees no obstacles to organize university education in Malta.

Conclusions

H. Elmstroem thanks for contributions and discussions and closes the workshop with handing over gifts to the speakers in the panel. Finally the host R. Camilleri thanks all delegates and accompanying persons for coming to Malta.

Gerda Schennach, Secretary-General

Enclosures: Participation list
Sponsoring CLGE (copies circulated in meeting)
Presentation B. Lipej (CLGE_Malta_GA_lipej_20060915.pdf)
Press release by R. Camilleri
All slides mentioned in text are available from www.clge.eu