



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

13 December 2009

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLGE
Rome/Italy, 11-12 September 2009

MINUTES

Venue: Hotel Bernini Bristol - Piazza Barberini, 23 Rome (RM)
Tel +39 06 488931 – Fax +39 06 4824266

Preliminary meeting of the Mediterranean Surveyors Union, under the auspices of CLGE,
Friday 11 September 2009, 08.45 – 09.45

Hotel Bernini Bristol – “Turchese Room”

General Assembly I, Friday 11 September 2009, 10.00 – 12.00

Hotel Bernini Bristol – “Giada Room”

1. Opening

The President, Henning Elmstroem, solemnly opens the GA stating that it will be an important part of the CLGE history.

He especially thanks the Italian organizers, Fausto Savoldi as well as his colleagues who did a wonderful job. He also thanks his close collaborators for their work behind the scenes. Special thanks to the Secretary General, the Executive Director as well as Maria Grazia Scorza, project manager of CNG.

The president then gives a presentation of the major achievements during the last months (see attachment 1.a.).

Fausto Savoldi, President of CNG gives a welcome address to the CLGE GA.

(See paper by President Savoldi, attachment 1.b.)

He is very proud that the CLGE Code of Conduct will be finalized here in Rome. Another important step is the creation of the UGM as a bridge of Europe with Africa and the Middle East.

The new delegates are welcomed by Henning Elmstroem who hands over the symbolic CLGE pins, ties and scarves.

Volkmar Teetzmann explains the strength of the German Delegation in Rome, due to the new generation coming up.

2. Roll Call and Apologies of Absence

All but three members (Cyprus, Hungary and Spain) take part in the Rome GA. See enclosed participation list on the website.

The absent delegations have sent their apologies.

3. Approval of the Agenda

DECISION [D GA 09-II/1]:

The CLGE GA unanimously approves the agenda as circulated on the 3rd August 2009 (and confirmed with minor corrections on 1st September 2009).

4. Approval of the Minutes of the GA in Krakow, 27 – 28 March 2009

DECISION [D GA 09-II/2]:

The CLGE GA unanimously approves the minutes of the Krakow General Assembly held on 26 March 2009.

5. New Applicants for Membership – Enlargement Policy

- New applications (Russian Federation and Croatia)

Jean-Yves Pirlot mentions the candidate members: Croatia and the Russian Federation.

Both have sent in their application and meet the criteria to be proposed for accession.

He remarks that the Russian Federation did not yet form a National Liaison Group. Since a lot of present members did not establish their NLG yet, the absence of a national liaison group may not hinder the accession.

After a short debate the president divided the acceptance of the two incoming members into two parts: Croatian and Russia.

DECISION [D GA 09-II/3]:

The CLGE GA unanimously accepts the application of Croatia. It receives the status of principal member.

About the application process for Russia, OGE President Pierre Bibollet announces that his organisation is in favour of welcoming the Russian Federation.

However the High Council of OGE asked him to make the following comments:

- CLGE gathers both members of EU and Countries inside the Council of Europe;
- CLGE's principal aim is to defend and represent the profession towards the institutions of the European Union;
- In this situation, OGE asks a modification of the statutes making a difference between the CLGE members based on their membership or not to the EU, before discussing the accession of the Russian Federation;
- OGE asks for a secret ballot.

However he will not insist on this claim as long as following principles are accepted:

- There must be a motion that the coming statutes will introduce a differentiation in voting right amongst EU and non-EU members about EU affairs;
- New fees must be defined in these statutes;
- Only in that case, OGE can accept the merging of Geometer Europas into CLGE.

OGE is in favour of welcoming the Russian Federation. As a matter of fact President Pierre Bibollet underlines that OGE has already signed a bilateral agreement with the Russian Federation, proving its good will if need be.

Volkmar Teetzmann cannot understand the position of OGE because there was an agreement about the merging and handling of interest groups within the new structure of CLGE.

During the Cork GA in 2004, CLGE took a basic and unanimous decision, thus agreed upon with French representatives at that time: Our area of interest is defined to be the area covered by the Council of Europe and not only the EU. Moreover, since the founding of CLGE, a basic rule of our organisation is "One country one vote".

President Henning Elmstroem emphasizes that the French claim is difficult to handle since it is not possible to vote about something that was not written in the invitation to the GA. He underlines that Switzerland and Norway aren't member of the EU and this never has caused any problem.

François Bibollet will not insist on his demand for a secret ballot but he asks to ensure that CLGE is willing to be effective on the level of the European Union.

The President then put the proposal about the accession of the Russian Federation to a vote. The vote then is carried out with an open ballot. Result: in favour 22, against: 00, abstentions: 03.

DECISION [D GA 09-II/4]:

The CLGE GA accepts the application of the Russian Federation. It receives the status of principal member.

About the Enlargement Policy, Henning Elmstroem insists on the importance of accepting additional members soon. He sums up the potential candidates: FYR Macedonia, Iceland and Turkey (represented in Rome).

The heads of delegation of the two incoming members express their gratitude for being accepted as new principal members of CLGE.

6. Report of the Treasurer and Budget 2010

CLGE Treasurer, René Sonney, reports about the financial situation at hands.

(see presentation of the Treasurer on the website).

The GA agreed already on the fact that, if the increase of the fees based on the inflation is less than 5 % it will automatically be adapted. Actually the increase is of 2.95%, thus there will be no vote about the increase.

He then presents the budget for 2010 and communicates the level of the fees for 2010, as circulated on the 3rd August 2009.

DECISION [D GA 09-II/5]:

The CLGE GA unanimously adopts the budget 2010.

7. Appointment of an Auditor for 2009

DECISION [D GA 09-II/6]:

The CLGE GA unanimously appoints Marek Ziemak as the successor of Ulf Sandgren in his capacity of Auditor of the accounts. He will finish the term of the latter, lasting until the 2010 elections.

8. Report by the Executive Board on the Working Plan 2007 – 2010

- The Executive Board presents:

- Merging Process with Geometer Europas

The merging process between Geometer Europas and CLGE is well under way.

A paper was presented to the two boards in Copenhagen (GE General Assembly and CLGE Ex-Board). They were accepted unanimously by the two meetings.

The two organisations will merge in one common organization called CLGE.

The statutes of CLGE will not be discussed in detail. They will be changed to allow the integration of Geometer Europas within CLGE.

Some specific agreements and financial matters are still to be solved.

OGE has also proposed to open up for implementing permanent working groups for special topics. If the GA is in favour of a special group to discuss specific interest, this must indeed be possible.

These groups can have their financial independence. The first to be created within the new statutes will be the Geometer Europas, gathering the countries in favour of publicly appointed surveyors.

- The website, brochure, newsletter, presentation style

Jean-Yves Pirlot presents the new style of CLGE presentations and documents.

Esben Clemens from Denmark was very active in this field. The GA warmly thanks him for his work.

All the documents are produced in the same design now. Power point presentations should respect this same template. All the templates can be obtained on simple demand addressed to the Secretary General and will be posted on the website.

- Surveyor placement (CLGE "First STEP" = CLGE Students & Trainees Exchange Programme)

Presentation by Michelle Camilleri (see her ppt on the website).

CLGE will be a stepping stone.

Of course, to give the system a chance to work implies that we create some opportunities of traineeship.

Jean-Yves Pirlot insists on the obligation of a good promotion of this last aspect amongst the CLGE member organisation.

- Report about the cooperation with other EU Associations (CEPLIS, EGoS EuroGeographics, ...):

- As member of CNG, the EGoS President, Antonio Benvenuti, attends the CLGE GA. He of course also represents his European organisation. He gives the floor to his Secretary General. Malcolm Lelliot presents some background information about EGoS.

He reminds the MoU that was signed 18 Months ago with CLGE.

EGoS was founded in 1989. CNG is one of the founding members of the group and of course is still on board.

EGoS was founded because the profession was not represented in the first general directive. That's how EGOS came about.

Surveying as such covers a very wide field in Europe. In the UK there are many types of surveying. However there is a mesh of surveying.

The EGoS surveyors are naturally allied with the geodetic surveying.

He then cites some of the vast range of activities conducted by EGoS members: Building surveying AEEBC, boundary disputes, party wall situations (boundaries in their own right), energy design. All these activities require some part of Geodetic Surveying as well.

The liaison with CLGE exists and hopefully we will be able to improve the synergy of both organisations.

Common values in surveying in Europe should be commonly represented. The offices of EGoS are quite willing to develop professional programmes together with CLGE.

Finally Malcolm Lelliot insists that we have to maintain our own identity.

Henning Elmstroem thanks the EGoS participants for their active role in the CLGE GA and underlines the vital role of the collaboration. He sees the very open presentation as a sign for the future collaboration.

- Rob Mahoney announces his participation in the EuroGeographics GA in Vilnius end of September. He then gives an overview of the working group of CTF-EU with EuroGeographics.

The aim is to produce a report on the "Impact of EU Legislation on Cadastral Surveying". It builds on the previous common report of 2008 "European Requirements for Cadastral Surveyor Activities".

The report should be available end of 2009. The Henssler study will be a valuable source.

9. Report about the CLGE Bergen Seminar, 29-30 April 2009

The Norwegian Delegation reports about the results of The Boundary CLGE Seminar.

It was a real success. 40 countries were represented.

Carsten Helgesen, pro-rector of the Bergen Technical University, has signed the Bergen Statement and so he's officially endorsed the Master level for cadastral surveyors.

10. CLGE European Conference, 06 – 07 AM May 2010

The Executive board and Romanian Delegation present the Bucharest CLGE Conference.

Jean-Yves Pirlot gives a presentation of the Conference programme.

An external witness will be invited. The French philosopher, Albert Jacquard has accepted to give his view on our profession.

The major theme of the conference will cover the role of the (publicly appointed) cadastral surveyor and efforts to make the cadastre and property right more understandable to consumers (the third recommendation of the Strasbourg declaration).

If possible, the Romanian Cadastral Agency will sign the Strasbourg declaration. He could open the way for other Directors. When the recommendations are signed by the public and private sector, they will be even more trustworthy.

DECISION [D GA 09-II/7]:

The CLGE GA accepts the preparation so far and asks the organising committee to go pursue in the same direction.

11. CLGE Spring General Assembly, 07 PM - 08 May 2010

Valeriu Manolache presents the Bucharest General Assembly with a power point and a short film.

Henning Elmstroem thanks him and the organising committee for the work done so far.

The presentation is a perfect omen for what will follow.

General Assembly II, part one, Friday 11 September 2009, 14.00 - 16.00
Hotel Bernini Bristol - "Giada Room"

12. European Affairs

- Report by CTF-EU Director Volkmar Teetzmann:

Volkmar Teetzmann opens the European session.

- CEPLIS, report by Rudolf Kolbe, Vice President CLGE and CEPLIS

A lot of work done by CEPLIS paves the way for the work inside of CLGE. Two years before we started about our Code of Conduct, CEPLIS had produced a paper about the common values.

Now, CEPLIS is working on the Small Business Act. It is wise to follow this work closely. Rudolf Kolbe gives the advice to read the position paper of CEPLIS about the Small Business Act

(www.ceplis.org/userfiles/files/positions/ceplis_position_sba.doc).

The Commission asked CEPLIS to express its needs about the SBA.

Under the lead of the University of Leeds, CEPLIS is building an academic network. Such an independent body can give some expertise nearly related to our background.

Volkmar Teetzmann then introduces two guest speakers. Prof. Dr. Frances Plimmer, from Wales (UK) as well as Prof. Dr. Martin Henssler from Germany.

- Presentation of the CLGE / GE Code of Conduct - Discussion (+ practical details) with Prof. Dr. Frances Plimmer

Volkmar Teetzmann introduces the topic of the code of conduct. The fundamental position is that we need this ethical code to ensure the survival of our profession.

We used the EU directives, especially article 37 of the services directive. This was also expressed in the European Commission document about codes of conduct.

The task is much more important, we have to define our commitment.

He then gives a short review of the different steps we took since the decision to implement the code of conduct.

The code of conduct will be adopted with respect to the national transposition process.

During the last procedure, the Italian CNG has introduced following amendment:

"European Surveyors with a wider experience assume the ethical task to transmit their own knowledge and expertise to less experienced surveyors."

Frances Plimmer agrees with the principle advanced by the Italian delegation. It's what professional education is all about and it has its place in such a code.

Hence, the GA agrees accepts the Italian amendment.

The CLGE is proud about the work that was done. Volkmar Teetzmann thanks all those who took part in this effort, especially Jean-Yves Pirlot and Bénédicte Fournier.

Henning Elmstroem takes the opportunity to thank Volkmar Teetzmann who can be viewed upon as the "father of the European Code of Conduct".

The Netherlands will not vote in favour nor against the Code of Conduct. It is due to the special structure of their organisation in The Netherlands.

The code is seen as very wise and logical but it is not applicable for The Netherlands.

Another reason is that their organisation has no power upon its member and cannot impose such provisions on their members. They also mean that is more fore companies and not for persons.

The President proposes to vote about the adoption of the European Code of Conduct. The vote is carried out with an open ballot.

Result: In favour 23, Against 00, Abstention 01.

The Geometer Europas delegates, gathered in Rome on the same occasion have unanimously voted in favour of the adoption of the code.

DECISION [D GA 09-II/8]:

The CLGE and Geometer Europas GA adopt the European Code of Conduct.

They ask their presidents to proceed with the solemn signature of this document on Saturday 12 September.

It then must be translated in the different languages of the CLGE members with the sufficient coordination.

The NLG then must ratify the text. In function of their statutes, their board or general assemblies or those of their constituting bodies must adopt in their turn the code of conduct.

The NLG also have to check if the code or parts of it must be transposed in their national law. Countries possessing a code of conduct that is more stringent than the European Code have nothing to do.

- Presentation of the Study on the impact of the EU-Directives on the Profession, by Prof. Dr. M. Henssler

Volkmar Teetzmann introduces the paper of Pr. Dr. Henssler. He gives an overview of the former work done by the University of Cologne in the field of the public appointment of the German surveyors called ÖbVI.

The new paper written by Prof. Dr. Henssler and Dr. Kilian will be a tool for our profession. Whenever a question arises, the Henssler paper will give us an answer, helping us to react and negotiate on these fundamentals.

As for the code of conduct, we should have a coordination of the translation of this fundamental text.

An abridged version of the paper is then presented by Prof. Dr. Henssler himself, under the applause of the GA.

- Presentation of a new initiative as follow-up of the Allan Report.

Professor Allan has conducted a milestone study about the profile of our profession. It is still available on our website.

The study, well known and praised all over Europe and even over the world via FIG we daresay.

The profile is well known in our midst. But if we ask the MEP they still don't know what we are really talking about...

A second drawback of the Allan report is that it was a snapshot describing the situation at a given moment.

As we know, we have to raise our profile. Therefore we have to be able to build and maintain a new kind of Allan Report. The new version should be fully digital and easy to maintain.

Our very active friends from France started with this work:

- First under the auspices of Alain Gaudet, then President of OGE and President of Geometer Europas as he still is. He asked for a study to be granted to a pool of professors, knowing our profession because they are teaching the youngsters, wanting to enter it.
- Secondly, or simultaneously the OGE asked some French students to make a Survey in Europe.

Although well done, a scrutiny of this students study shows that it unfortunately lacks the thorough insight of the profession and against is static.

To build the profile of our profession, with the needed professional and the academic background as well as the required dynamics, the CLGE ex-board has confirmed our will to cooperate with Geometer Europas.

General Assembly II, part two, Friday 11 September 2009, 17.30 - 19.30
"Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica" – Palazzo Poli – "I Sala Mostra" and "Stamperia"

13. National presentations

- *Lectio Magistralis* "From the image to the model - The Geometric Cartography in Italy from the Renaissance to the Geodetic Revolution" by Prof. Andrea Cantile.
- Demonstration in the printing office on the manners of the reproduction of the incised matrixes by Giuseppe Trassari Filippetto, responsible of the diagnostic Laboratory of matrixes, and by the metal restorer Ms. Lucia Ghedin, and printing proof by the Master Chalcographer Antonio Sannino.

General Assembly Dinner, Friday 11 September 2009, 20.00 - 24.00
"Istituto Nazionale per la Grafica" – Palazzo Poli – "Sala Dante"

General Assembly III, Saturday 12 September 2009, 09.00 - 12.00
Hotel Bernini Bristol – "Giada Room"

14. National presentations (ctd.) (see www.clge.eu)

- Other Italian presentations
Dottoressa Gabriella Alemanno, General Manager of the Land Agency;
Dottore Franco Maggio, Manager Cadastre – Cartography – Real Estate Advertising
Bruno Raffa Razza
Giuseppe Simone, General Manager Geoweb
President Fausto Savoldi

Henning Elmstroem warmly thanks the different speakers, especially Dottoressa Gabriella Alemanno for the excellent presentations of her administration. He invites her to join the European Conference in Bucharest.

- Presentations by Croatia and Turkey

The President also thanks the presenters from Croatia and Turkey as well the Russian President for her short address. He's convinced that the enlargement policy of CLGE is well on track and that new important achievements will be reached soon.

- Other national presentations

Svante Astermo gives a short presentation about the next seminar to be held in 2011 about the European reference systems.

15. Dates and Venues of the coming Assemblies, Conferences and Meetings

a. Statutory meetings

I Ex-Board 2010 meeting of CLGE in Switzerland, 08 – 09 January 2010 (07 January, Geometer Europas meeting);

I GA 2010, Bucharest / Romania 07 PM – 08 May 2010;

II GA 2010, Varna (instead of Sofia) / Bulgaria (24-25 September 2010);

I and II GA 2011, Call for Candidates;

I GA 2012, London / UK;

II GA 2012, Germany (together with InterGeo and the "III CLGE European Conference")
– October 2012

b. Non statutory meetings

Students meeting, Intergeo 2009, 22 – 24 September 2009;

Conference 2010, Romania [together with the Spring GA], 06 – 07 AM May 2010, Post Conference tour on the 08th May 2010;

Seminar 2011 Sweden proposal "European Reference Systems" in Umeå University;

Conference 2012, Germany, in Hannover [together with the Intergeo and the Autumn GA as well as the 2nd Students meeting, Intergeo 2012 (CLGE-DVW)].

16. AOB

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17. Official adoption of the European Code of Conduct for Surveyors


- "Ethics in Surveying – the European Code of Conduct for Surveyors as a starting point", by Prof. Dr. Frances Plimmer
- Official signature of the European Code of Conduct for Surveyors

The European Code of Conduct is solemnly signed by Henning Elmstroem, President CLGE, Alain Gaudet, President Geometer Europas and Fausto Savoldi, President CNG – Italy, as a witness of the CLGE members.

18. Closing of the General Assembly

Henning Elmstroem once more warmly thanks all the participants and the organizers and closes the GA.

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Jean-Yves Pirlot
Secretary General



Henning Elmstroem
President

Enclosures: Welcome addresses by Henning Elmstroem and Fausto Savoldi
CEPLIS Position paper on the SBA www.ceplis.org
Presentations (see www.clge.eu):
Financial affairs, by René Sonney
First STEP, by Michelle Camilleri
EuroGeographics, by Rob Mahoney