



Welcome address of Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President, during the Opening Ceremony of the XXII Nordic Surveyors Congress in Oslo, 20th September 2012

Distinguished Guests, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a real pleasure and honor for me, to open this Nordic Surveyors Congress, together with my international colleagues and friends, Arve Leiknes and Leiv Bjarte Mjøs. In the name of CLGE, I sincerely thank you for this kind invitation and your warm welcome.

Speaking about warmth, on Monday, I had the pleasure to open the Fourth International Training Course in Topography for Young Surveyors organized by our Italian and Spanish Colleagues in Madrid.

I can confirm: ... that, despite the shining sun, the weather in Madrid is not the same as in Oslo, that your languages are very different, but that I understand more or less the same level of what's said, I mean it's near to 0%, but I am proud to say that when I read Hispanic or Nordic languages, it becomes nearly 10% in both cases.

... But what really strikes me is that, regardless of these apparent differences, the same spirit as I've seen there seems to reign in your midst. What strikes me is this will of all of us to relentlessly promote and improve our profession and that's exactly what CLGE is all about. Therefore I am a happy president; happy to see that the national and regional bodies are working closely together, in the spirit of cooperation and comradeship that's characterizing CLGE.

For those who do not know CLGE well, especially the younger surveyors and students, I give a short reminder of what we stand for.

CLGE, the Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens or, Council of European Geodetic Surveyors is Europe's leading body of Surveyors. We are present in 36 countries, amongst them 27 EU member states. So, our area of interest is the Geographic Europe, a huge territory from the Northern Polar Circle to the Mediterranean, from the Ural to the Atlantic Ocean.

What's important to know and too often forgotten is the fact that CLGE represents the profession as a whole. We represent private surveyors as well as civil servants and this gives us a special advantage. We are also active in a variety of domains, ranging from the vast world of GeoInformation, in the broad sense of the word, to cadastral surveying, yet another asset of our organization.

Despite this huge territory, uniting close to 100.000 surveyors, in a great diversity with a broad spectrum of activities, one has to recognize that our profession is very small when compared to others. Hardly 1 or 2 European citizens out 10.000 are surveyors. Therefore we need to speak one common tongue if we want to appear on the radar of the European politicians and the General Public, that we are serving, and that's the main reason of CLGE's existence.



In five minutes I cannot explain all what CLGE's doing to appear on the radar of policy makers and this General Public. I will limit myself to major principles and some examples.

CLGE is or wants to be close to the basic surveyor – the reason why I am here in Oslo today - (this means proximity), we want to influence the policy and not undergo it (this means proactivity), we want to use our humble means in a committed and morally stainless way (this means professionalism, although most of us are volunteers).

One of the first good examples of these three rules is the acceptance of the common Code of Conduct, we've reached under the CLGE presidency of Henning Elmstroem (DK) in 2009. For the huge European territory, we've indeed managed to adopt one common Code of Conduct that was acknowledged by the European Bodies and is posted on the official website of the European Economic and Social Committee. About 50% of our members have transposed this text or are considering adopting it their national General Assemblies. In the Nordic Countries 75% have adopted the code and ... one member is considering this adoption, we hope this last one will follow soon to set the Nordic region as a standard for the rest of Europe = 100%.

Before going on with my examples of recent CLGE activities and achievements, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee of this Nordic Congress for the well balanced programme. You've managed to scan nearly the whole spectrum of current trends in our profession. Allow me to use your programme as a framework for some comments and examples.

GeoInformation is one of the major topics. CLGE has reinvigorated its presence in that field by appointing a VP for Geodesy an GI, Danko Markovinović. The Umeå seminar was a real breakthrough for us since the European GNSS Agency is considering us as a genuine partner in the GI field. We have to thank Svante Astermo (SE) and his team for their outstanding work. We were and are regularly consulted as domain specialists by the commission and even consultants from the private sector. Hence you've had a good idea to cover this domain in your congress.

The infrastructure of the underground is yet another topic in which CLGE has been active. Delegates will remember that we've covered this subject in an interesting Workshop during our Tallinn General Assembly, in 2011. We see with pleasure that some of our members, including you, are leading the way ahead for others. Perhaps, CLGE should take a political position about this complex issue at the European level, at least should we discuss this perspective in our coming meetings and the conclusions of your conference could feed these discussions. Please come forward with them.

BIM for Building Information Modelling, yet another new and trendy abbreviation that surveyors simply cannot ignore and that we should also cover in one of our next meetings. Your decision to take it in the programme underlines that we, as surveyors, are also active in that field. Fortunately, CLGE has occupied this terrain too, by adopting a Code for the Measurement of Buildings and creating a label called European Real Estate Area Label or euREAL. This code was accepted as a reference in the Annex III of the INSPIRE Directive and will lead us to a close cooperation with CEN, the European normalization body. Via INSPIRE it also brings us back to the GeoInformation and this proves that our efforts are consistent.



Finally, I would like to mention my favorite, the cadastral surveying that you cover in your section about boundary dispute resolution.

In leading European countries a high quality cadaster is an important and basic tool for fair taxation, preventing land disputes, developing an effective Spatial Data infrastructure and a well-functioning land planning system and housing policy.

Well-performing European cadastral systems employ highly qualified surveyors with authoritative powers given by a license/authorization or contract. This can be obtained in systems with civil servants, publicly appointed private surveyors or a combination of both.

To conclude, allow me a few words about ongoing events in which the Nordic Vice President of CLGE, Leiv Bjarte Mjøs, is heavily involved:

The Day of the European Surveyors and GI. As you might know this year we had the first edition of this Day on the 5th of March 2012. Next year it will be during the US Surveyors Week on 22nd March 2013, because we would like to make it an international day. While we've honored Mercator this year, we will soon decide who will be the next famous surveyor to celebrate. Please spread the word and engage yourself in national or 'regional' activities that will be organized during this week. CLGE will organize a European event during its GA in Budapest.

The European Students' Meeting (every three years starting from 2009, 2012, etc.) and the CLGE students' contest (every year from 2012 onwards) in three categories: Topography/Geodesy, Mapping/GIS and Students' and youngsters' engagement. More details to follow on the CLGE website. For this year's edition, papers had to be posted before the 15th July. We had a lot of applications, but we have not yet given the prizes – the two first of the three planned awards will be handed over at the Second European Students Meeting in Hanover on 10 October 2012. The third category will be extended to young surveyors, since they can also show us the way to improve this topic.

Our idea is to get a closer link between young surveyors and the bodies that govern the professional development.

Despite the good turnout in the contest for its first edition, we would like to have more papers from the western countries who are underrepresented this time. We hope to have at least 16 papers from the Nordic countries next year, let's be ambitious ;-)...

The use of Social Media

We are active in the on-line GeoInformatics magazine (every European Surveyor can register for a free hard copy subscription on <http://www.geoinformatics.com/clge>), an E-Newsletter will follow soon, we are present on twitter and LinkedIn. We ask you all to join us on this media and follow CLGE and CLGEPresident.

I hope that I could convince you of the utility of CLGE. I am indeed convinced that initiatives as yours are more than useful to CLGE. Therefore, I wish you very fruitful sessions.

Jean-Yves Pirlot
President

Oslo, 20 September 2012