

1 CLGE GA 2012 in Hanover, Thursday 11 October 2012, welcome notes

Mayor Regine Kramarek,

On behalf of the German Association of Publicly Appointed Surveyors (BDVI) e.V. as one of the hosts, I thank you for your invitation to the New City Hall - which is a very impressive building - and I am very pleased to welcome you here tonight.

President of the CLGE, Jean Yves Pirlot,

Dear Jean Yves, I warmly welcome you and all Delegates of the CLGE to Hanover, the capital of Lower Saxony.

I also warmly welcome to Germany the past CLGE President, **Henning Elmström.**

Guests, colleagues, my European friends,

Have you ever heard of the KISS method? KISS stands for “Keep it simple stupid.” This means if you are not able to keep something simple, you haven’t truly understood it. So, I’m going to keep my words simple, but I’ll try to keep it short rather than stupid. This way, it is still a KISS speech.

I am very pleased that so many people accepted the invitation to the third Conference of the European Surveyor and the General Assembly 2012, and I warmly welcome all of you here tonight.

I hope you had a pleasant journey travelling here.

It is a great honour for us and our country that the CLGE decided to hold the Conference in Hanover, as, statistically seen, a CLGE Member can be a host only once in approximately 70 years. This means that we as participants of a Conference taking place in Germany now are not likely to experience this situation again during our lifetime.

First of all, please allow me to talk about something that we were all very saddened to hear about. On 6th of June, the Honorary President of the BDVI and Honorary Member of the CLGE, Volkmar Teetzmann, passed away after a severe illness. In him we have lost a highly regarded colleague and a wonderful friend who played a decisive role in shaping and defining our profession not only within Germany, but also throughout Europe. It will be a privilege for us to honour the memory of Volkmar Teetzmann.

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Today, you have already experienced a lot here in Hanover. Thanks to the trade fairs Hannover Messe and CeBIT, the city is known all over the world. Today we had the third Conference of the European Surveyor and we have gained deeper insight into European cadastre systems and learned details of the new and unified regulation for calculation of real estate areas, EUREAL. Getting to know colleagues from other nations and being able to discuss important European issues face to face has been an exciting experience for each of us. Naturally, we are aware that European matters are not the focal point of our daily work. Nevertheless, or maybe precisely because of that, the Conference is a good opportunity for shaping one's own opinion. The issues that are discussed and decided upon on a European level are fundamental to our profession and affect us all. We are showing not only our colleagues throughout Europe but also European politicians that we are stakeholders in European matters and that our profession is a force to be reckoned with.

What can we do to promote our profession and improve our image? Here, a diverse and active marketing strategy is needed, which is a task to be fulfilled by each single professional and also by the European associations. I'm looking forward to inspiring discussions with you.

Two more days filled with work are awaiting you, comprising this year's General Assembly of the CLGE. Tomorrow's agenda features, for example, the elections of the next Executive Board. Saturday presents you with an interesting programme of lectures and discussions on geodetic news and developments in the fields of surveying, photogrammetry and 3D cadastre.

Meanwhile, you, the accompanying ladies and gentlemen, are offered exciting cultural landscapes, tourist highlights and diverse shopping possibilities. On a tour of the Herrenhausen Gardens you will get to know one of the most distinguished baroque gardens of Europe. Saturday afternoon, most of you will surely seize the opportunity to explore the city of Hildesheim with its churches that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Visiting the Butchers' Guild Hall is an experience not to be missed. The Guild Hall, which is considered to be the most beautiful example of half-timbered building worldwide, was reconstructed using photogrammetry, and with its comfortable atmosphere it is the ideal place to conclude your visit to Germany.

I wish you a pleasant stay here in Hanover, where the European thought comes alive, as the city is a crossroads of important traffic routes from north to south and from east to west.

Thank you for listening. I wish you a wonderful and interesting evening.