



Speech by Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE president for the

Opening of The European Space Expo

Budapest, 20 March 2013

Announcement of
The day of the European Surveyor and GeoInformation

Galileo Galilei, Surveyor of the Year 2013

As president of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors, I am pleased and honored to open this European Space Expo in Budapest.

For us the Space Geodesy and Geodesy based on Space Technology is very very important in our day to day business and therefore this event can be seen as historic, but I will come back on this later on.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the Hungarian authorities and the European GNSS Agency GSA allowing us to co-organize such a prestigious exposition honouring our profession, in front of the general public especially the youth.

I am fully aware that it was quite difficult to organize an event of this extent in a few months.

Thank you very much for that, especially to our Hungarian delegate, Gyorgy Domokos, who managed all this.

I also have to thank your sponsor and partner for this event, Steven Berglund, President and CEO of TRIMBLE!



In a few days CLGE will have:

- The opening of this European Space Expo
- A European GNSS seminar
- The solemn signature of the European Code of Conduct by the Hungarian member organizations
- The opening of the Day of the European Surveyor and GI and the appointment of the Surveyor of the year (this opening will take place in the ESE) with the projection of a film. Together with our friends from the United States we will try to launch a worldwide event of the same kind (see declaration hereafter)
- The presentation of a brand new project: BlueParking.eu (a GNSS based European campaign offering a geolocalisation service of parking places for disabled people)
- The launch of the CLGE students' contest 2013
- The announcement of the CLGE students' meeting in 2014 Berlin
- And last but not least our spring General Assembly with different important workshops (important for all surveyors but especially interesting for the local Surveying and GI community).

Let us come back to the importance of the European GNSS initiatives for our community, and for the European society.

We can use EGNOS for low precision applications, all over Europe. The advantage of this service is that it's homogeneously available over the whole territory and free of charge. Always when the high precision is not needed, especially in the regions where the ground based augmentation systems do not exist yet, EGNOS is very precious.

However, geodetic surveyors are specialized in the high precision segment. Since a decade they are using ground based augmentations systems allowing them to achieve sub-centimetre precision with one single device (impossible to do with the common receivers). With Galileo (the Global Navigation Satellite System, not the man) our dependence of other military and foreign systems will disappear. Moreover, the availability of the system will increase, the precision and accuracy will become better and problems of bad visibility due to tree canopies and urban canyons will diminish.

This is a great achievement for us. And it is not a wonder that this year, we've chosen Galileo (the man, not the system as the surveyor of the year, but through him, we also honour this extremely promising project of the European Commission).

Space infrastructure is important, nobody doubts, it allows to create ground infrastructure such as roads, bridges, tunnels, ...they are important too, nobody doubts, it is less known that the geographic data infrastructure is also very important to run all this, to be able to manage the society in an efficient way. We can only advise the decision makers to invest heavily in the GI sector. Without this commitment no pertinent GeoDataInfrastructure, without GDI no efficient management of the state resources. There is a good GI sector in Europe and Hungary. This sector has to be supported to the benefit of all.



If I am well informed, Hungary is already represented in the European GNSS Agency GSA. However it is not yet member of the European Space Agency, perhaps the ESE is a good occasion to enter this organisation?



Budapest Declaration

The honourable and historic profession of surveying has been in existence since the beginning of civilisation. Surveying is recognised as the world's oldest legal profession.

From the rope stretchers of ancient Egypt into modern society the surveyor has been an essential foundation in civilisation's development. He's qualified and ready to take the same responsibilities in the future.

Whether on land, in water or space, surveyors are always at the forefront.

In recognition of the essential role surveyors play in all phases of today's world and to honour and publicise the surveying profession and the important work done by surveyors we hereby declare:

22 March 2013 as SURVEYOR'S DAY

Moreover, we ask the international Surveyors Federation, FIG, to consider the creation of a common worldwide Surveyor's Day.

John Hohol
Representing Robert Dahn, President of
The National Society of Professional Surveyors
USA

Jean-Yves Pirlot
CLGE President
Europe

Gyorgy Domokos
CLGE Delegate for the Hungarian Umbrella