



Welcome address of Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President, during the Opening Ceremony of
44th Congresso Nazionale de Geometri e Geometri Laureati

- Unabridged version -

Dear Italian Surveyors, Dear Colleagues and Distinguished Guests,

Geometra, Ruola e Competenza in Evoluzione, this is a very wise title chosen by your president and his team. As you probably know, we celebrate Galileo Galilei as the European Surveyor of the Year 2013. We of course owe him a lot and it's good to remember the glorious past of our profession, but this would have no sense if it's not with the aim to strengthen our future.

One thing is indeed totally clear in my mind, even if our role is changing, even if we have to be open to this evolution, mentioned in your title, we, surveyors, can remain very important players, ensuring that our modern societies dispose of sound fundamentals. Our potential role in the creation of an effective Geodata Infrastructure, in the broad sense of the term, is simply tremendous. Without these fundamentals, our modern societies cannot perform well.

When I say GI, in the broad sense of the term, I exactly mean what's written on the first page of your programme: Construction, Environment, Territories, Valuation, Security, Civil Protection. These are the different facets of our profession, as many fields in which it is important to educate our youngsters and give confirmed professionals the needed continued development. Of course, a single surveyor cannot be "The" specialist in all these fields, but as a profession we need a holistic knowledge of what's happening out there and moreover we have to occupy these fields, if they are our monopole or not.

I appreciate very much the idea of your president who likes to dream and not only because it is not forbidden but because doing proposals is part of his duty!

I dream that the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors could become as performant as your Consiglio is.

For those who do not know CLGE well, I give a short reminder of what we stand for.

CLGE, the Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens 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. I mean 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 – as I said before – to cadastral surveying, yet another asset of our organization.

In a few 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 has to be close to the basic surveyor – the reason why I am here in Rimini 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 during our General Assembly in Rome, 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 60% of our members have transposed this text or are considering adopting it by their national General Assemblies. By signing this document in Rome, President Fausto Savoldi was amongst the first.

Rethinking what we're doing, what exactly we are as surveyors is important too. Therefore we've developed a Dynamic Professional Knowledge Base. This Knowledge Base has to be fed by our members, so please make sure to integrate the outcome of this congress in our application. It could become an example for other countries.

I do not know if the Surveyor lacks visibility in Italy, but I know that we do, at the European level. Please make sure that we're known by the Italian and European Politicians. Don't forget our visibility towards the opinion makers, the general public.

Some of our initiatives might interest you and could get profit from your backing:

- The European Real Estate Area Label (Bruno Razza is part of the working group), we have to promote this label as a guarantee for quality provided by professional surveyors – I am bound for the world bank to promote our European initiative;
- The European Space Expo, we've organized one in Budapest. It is planned in Rimini (19-24 August, with my anniversary in the middle ;-)), it's important that your Consiglio waves CLGE's flag at this and other occasions. I would love to come back and open it here as I did in Hungary;
- BlueParking.eu, this Geolocalisation service for disabled people driven by surveyors is an excellent way to show our capacity with a simple but very useful showcase.

But these are only examples and I am sure that President Fausto Savoldi and his strong international team, led by Bruno Razza, FIG Vice President as well as Enrico Rispoli, your Secretary but also incoming chair of FIG Commission 3 and, last but not least, Maria Grazia Scorza have understood the importance of the international commitment. As most of our profession is shaped at the International and European level, being absent would be suicidal.

Dear President, ladies and gentlemen, I hope that in the future too, your Consiglio will help us in realizing the dream that I've told you earlier: make sure that CLGE will grow and achieve the strategic goals that we've put forward in an effective way. ... we Surveyors have the privilege to practice a profession we're in love with, we cannot rely on our past but we have the moral obligation to ensure the future of our profession for coming generations of surveyors.

Have a nice and fruitful congress!

Jean-Yves Pirlot

President

Rimini, 10 April 2013