



Kaliningrad Declaration

The IV CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor and Geoinformation, held in Kaliningrad from 1st to 3rd July 2014, allowed the participating CLGE delegates to exchange views with the local surveyors. The Conference was not only the occasion to honour Struve as the European Surveyor of the year, but also the opportunity to propose a solemn declaration forwarding recommendations to the European and International decision makers.

*Jean-Yves Pirlot, CLGE President and Viktor Kislov,
National Chamber of Cadastral Engineers of Russia President*

During the IV CLGE Conference and the 3rd All-Russian congress of Cadastral Engineers, held in Kaliningrad, the European Surveyors succeeded in conducting a number of interesting and very fruitful talks.

The attendance of more than 400 participating professionals ensured the event was a huge success. Fortunately, Marina Petroshina and Vladimir Tikhonov, who have been CLGE delegates since the establishment of the Russian Federation in September 2009, had prepared the conference with a great deal of professionalism and thoroughness.

During the meetings, the European Surveyors acknowledged once again the need for a strong and specific, initial academic and practical education, as well as high quality continuing professional development courses. Recognition of this point is essential for the whole of Europe and also seems to be an important subject in the Russian Federation, especially for cadastral engineers.

Regarding the historic geodetic infrastructure related to the Struve Geodetic Arc, CLGE has requested that the appropriate authorities consider directing their efforts to renovate, maintain and give expert



F.G.W. von Struve

access to the reference points on Hogland, an island under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

Additionally, in the field of modern Geodesy, CLGE has expressed its support for Galileo and GLONASS as important Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the European contribution to worldwide satellite navigation and positioning.

We are expecting, therefore, a sustainable implementation of Galileo without any further delays.

We have requested that the European surveying community implement and use Galileo and GLONASS.

We have expressed our wishes regarding the need for further standardisation to guarantee interoperable solutions.

We expect and support technical innovation in the context of precise point positioning (PPP). Additionally, we recognise and underline the need for increasing multi-national cooperation.

All presentations, including the solemn declaration, are available on www.clge.eu.

The Missing Key to Eradicate Poverty

The European Parliament is placing land rights at the heart of the EU development policy. A recent report states that land tenure security and property rights provide an opportunity to improve and consolidate bases for development and poverty reduction in some of the poorest regions of the world. The report highlights the fact that the EU has the capacity to enhance its currently limited approach in terms of both scope and visibility with the view to addressing land tenure. FIG and CLGE were represented at the kick-off conference in Brussels, in April 2014.

Professor Stig Enemark



A High-Level Conference on Property Rights held at the European Parliament, 9 April 2014.

About 1.2 billion people worldwide live without permanent homes, land access or formal property rights. With recognized rights and secure physical assets, farmers, small business owners, slum dwellers and untitled urban inhabitants would be brought into the formal economy, enabling them to secure their investments and intensify production, access credit and start businesses. Secure property rights hold the key to eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Within this perspective, the European Union (EU), as the leading partner on food security and nutrition, issued guidelines on land policies in 2004 and has financed 92 development projects since then. The EU now strongly supports the application of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure and also the African Frameworks and Guidelines on Land Policies. Furthermore, by adopting the recent report on "The role of property right, property ownership and wealth creation in eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development in development countries", the European Parliament is placing land rights at the heart of the EU development policy. The report is prepared by the Committee of Development and was presented at a one day high-level conference held at the European Parliament, Brussels on 9th April 2014 to discuss the future of land policy in developing countries and the role of the international com-

munity, and the EU in particular, in the post 2015-development framework.

Facing the global land agenda

The report addresses some key issues on the global land agenda such as:

Secure land rights for all and the rule of law. Importantly, tenure security could be safeguarded under various forms. In addition to formal titles, security can be achieved through clear, long-term rental contracts, or formal recognition of customary rights and informal settlements, with accessible and effective dispute settlement mechanisms. In this regard, the report calls for the EU to channel support towards capacity development and training programmes in land management with the aim of securing land rights for the poor and vulnerable groups, through cadastral surveying, registration, and efforts to equip educational institutions in developing countries. Furthermore, the report calls for strengthening the capacity of courts in developing countries to enforce property laws effectively, to resolve land disputes and manage expropriations as part of an holistic approach aiming at consolidating judicial systems and the rule of law.



Women's land rights. The report points out that the formal recognition of land rights for women does not automatically entail the effective implementation of those rights. It calls for the EU to pay particular attention in its land reform programmes to women's vulnerability to changes in family structure and the degree to which women can enforce their rights, as well as to ensure that in practice, household deeds have both spouses' names on the land title;



Woman worker. Malawi. © Stig Enemark

Land reforms and fiscal policies. The report calls for the EU to help developing countries to implement their land reforms in order to promote, in particular, the participation of all stakeholders, and in combination with awareness-raising programmes, so that the rights of all parties involved, especially the poor and vulnerable, are fully respected. It also highlights the fact that building sound fiscal policies in developing countries by strengthening land registration and delineating valuation functions, significantly increases annual land transaction revenue.

Economic growth and poverty alleviation. The report considers registered property rights and secure land rights to be a catalyst for economic growth, provided that land can be used as collateral and enhance access to capital and, therefore, stimulate productivity and investment, whilst promoting social cohesion and peace. It emphasises that securing land rights and greater equity in land access provides a secure foundation for livelihoods, economic opportunities, and in rural areas, for household food production. It also stresses that land tenure security for smallholders, who constitute 95 % of potential landowners in developing countries, stimulates local economies, increases food security, decreases migration and slows down slum urbanisation

Land grabbing.

The report stresses that investment agreements on large-scale land acquisitions or leases should duly take into account the right of current land-users, as well as the rights of workers employed on farms. The obligations of investors should be clearly defined and should be enforceable, for instance by means of the inclusion of sanction mechanisms in cases of non-compliance with human rights. All land deals should also include a legal obligation, whereby a certain minimum percentage of crops produced should be sold on the local market.



Source: Actionaid, USA.

their assets into real measurable and transferable wealth, thereby producing future economic opportunities. It also stresses that empowering people to make decisions over their own resources, strongly encourages landowners to sustainably invest in their land to prevent environmental degradation and soil erosion by practicing terracing and irrigation.

Recommendations

Institutional reform and capacity development underpins the sustainability of sound land governance and accompanies the process of registering individual land holdings and small businesses. The European parliament report, therefore, concludes the report by calling upon the European Commission to:

- support capacity development and training programmes in land management with the aim of securing land rights for the poor and vulnerable groups;
- strengthen the capacity of courts in developing countries to enforce property law effectively;
- help developing countries to implement their land reforms; ensure introduction of legislative measures to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination;
- address the means of removing the significant social, political and cultural constraints on land right's acquisition.

In order for the European Union to become a major player in the advancement of property rights and in the fight against land-grabbing, the Parliament decided to urge the European Commission to:

- set a clearly defined budget line for property rights in developing countries, designed to support long-term land governance reform and to streamline land tenure, and
- enhance its assistance with respect to the inclusion of land rights in humanitarian and development responses to disasters or civil conflicts, whereby land policies must guarantee secure land rights for different ethnic, social or generational groups in an equitable manner.

A following article in one of the subsequent issues of Geoinformatics will address the issue of building flexible and affordable land administration systems in developing countries using a fit-for-purpose approach to identifying the way land is occupied and used.

References:

- EP (2014): *Report on the role of property rights, property ownership and wealth creation in eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development in developing countries*. European Parliament Committee of Development.
www.fig.net/news/news_2014/eu_april_2014/eu_report_property_rights.pdf
 Short summary: www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/summary.do?id=1342744&t=d&l=en

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Urban growth and environmental protection. The report states that with a 70% urban population globally by 2050, the legal property system alone by registration has the capacity to bring slum inhabitants and urban squatters into the formal economy, converting