



Strategies for EU Engagement

Now that CLGE has grown to almost forty members and the number of EU member states stands at twenty-eight (sadly, soon to be twenty-seven!) the question has arisen as to whether we are at a disadvantage in dealing with the institutions of the European Union, particularly in dealing with the European Commission, because of the mismatch between these two totals. Many see the need for an interest group within CLGE, which would focus single-mindedly on our relationship with the EU and which would be recognised by the EU as the authentic voice of geodetic surveyors and their representative associations within the member states. This interest group could function in much the same way as IG-PARLS does. IG-PARLS represents the state appointed liberal surveyors within CLGE, without in any way weakening the unity or the cohesion of CLGE as a pan-European association stretching far beyond the limits of the EU, and there is no reason that an IG-EU could not serve the same function for surveyors within the member states of the EU, on the same basis.

Recent meetings with other interests, particularly *Notaires d'Europe*, the European notaries, emphasise the argument that a focused interest group, exclusively operating on behalf of the EU member states will receive a much more enthusiastic reception from the Commission than might be the case with an approach by an extra-EU group. The engagement with the Commission would be primarily in the area of legislation – directives to which we could, with advantage, contribute at the drafting stages and which, because of this early input, would be beneficial to EU geodetic surveyors, and indeed to the Commission, on coming into force.

This workshop will provide an open forum for the views of CLGE delegates. Whether you would support such an initiative or oppose it, we want to hear from you. There may well be other approaches to the issue of European Union engagement, and it would be good to benefit from such points of view. All opinions will be carefully listened to and documented. We look forward to a stimulation session, which hopefully will lead to the enhancement of CLGE in the service of all its member associations and states.

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Moderator

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