

Zagreb Symposium 2020

Opening Remarks by Vladimir Krupa, CLGE President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's my great honour and pleasure to stand in front of you as the new President of CLGE.

I know that you've seen me more than enough in my previous capacity, new faces were put in place at head of the chamber and that's good. However, I thought that I can use my national and international experience in a new adventure and still serve our profession.

So, I was recently elected for a mandate of two years at the helm of CLGE, together with a renewed team combining youth and experience. And indeed, our youngest Vice-President, Michalis Kalogiannakis from Athens, President of the Greek association HARSE (Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers), will give a presentation about our main topic, during this Symposium, on Friday.

For many years now, CLGE is a trusted participant in our annual Symposium. We have been happy to see my predecessors amongst us more than once.

I seize the opportunity to warmly thank them for all what they've done for the Geodetic Surveying profession, for CLGE and for HKOIG / us.

Since Croatia has joined CLGE in 2009, I have known Presidents Henning Elmstrøm (DK), Jean-Yves Pirlot (BE) and Maurice Barbieri (CH). All three, in their personal way, have very much improved the visibility and relevance of the Council, and I feel humbled by the task in front of me.

I know it from them – so I can say it without false modesty – since more than 10 years, Croatia has been an exemplary member of CLGE. The commitment, the very professional but always very friendly behaviour of our delegates and our association are widely praised, and this has certainly helped me for my recent appointment. Hence, I also want to thank all the current and past delegates from Croatia for their work, as well as the leadership of HKOIG, for its commitment to the European cause.

Everybody knows the saying that 70% or more of all the legislation taken in Croatia, is somehow influenced by the EU. But this is only part of the picture. It is the wrong reflex to think that all what goes wrong is a consequence of bad policies in Brussels, this is too easy. Don't forget that the Member States have an important role in the European Council and that the interaction between the EU bodies – I mean the Commission, the Council and the Parliament – this interaction between these bodies and the national governments is very complex and intricate.

What I know for certain, is that we must influence the European policies, if we want to have an impact on our local legislations, and vice versa, we can influence these very same EU policies, by cooperating with our government. This requires a proactive attitude, not waiting for the next directive to come but preparing it, influencing it, in the noble meaning of the word. These efforts must be done, because we see it as our duty to contributing to the construction and the improvement of the European Union.

CLGE unites 38 members, amongst them 27 EU Member States, and 3 observing members. 41 countries, in one single association. You can understand that it is a huge and not so easy task to steer organisation, especially in today's difficult situation. However, even if this size can be seen as a weakness, it is also a strength and an opportunity. With our 27 EU Member States, we can have a real impact on the European and national policies. Close to Croatia, we have not less than 5 candidate Member States. You can easily understand why the Interest Group of Publicly Appointed and Regulated Liberal Surveyors of CLGE – I pause here to welcome its new Chair, our well-known friend from neighbouring Slovenia, Matjaž Grilc – so you can easily understand why IG-PARLS, this Interest Group, has declared the South Eastern part of Europe, the zone with the most probable future expansion of the European Union, as a priority zone in all its policies and actions. We are convinced that it is in this very region that we are defining the geodetic surveying profession of tomorrow. If we want our model of Geodetic and Property Surveying to prevail, we have to act, not to wait. I can assure you that others are at work and they do not necessarily share our high opinion about our profession.

For the last two years, CLGE has embraced important topics as annual themes. The themes of the year. In 2019, you will remember it, it was the year of Professional Ethics, we hope that this has started some ideas and reflexions in our hearts and minds.

This year, our theme is, as you know it, a question: how can we geodetic surveyors contribute to the achievement Sustainable Development Goals 2030 of the United Nations. This is very ambitious but Michalis will speak more about it. Again, it's not because we will be in 2021 that we will be allowed to forget Professional Ethics and the Sustainability of our actions, on the contrary, it is a continuum. We have to unite forces to make our profession even more trustworthy and even more respectful of our living environment. Let's take the example of the French Ordre, the French Chamber of Geodetic Surveyors, which adopted a new baseline: *le géomètre-expert, garant d'un cadre de vie durable* – The geodetic surveyor, guarantor of a sustainable living environment. At CLGE, we are convinced that we have an important role to play, no we have a duty to take part in the effort and lead our profession, our society through these troubled waters. The current crisis is probably not more than an epiphenomenon of what's really going on.

But this might sound as a bit sombre and sad, that's of course not our purpose. On the contrary, we have to grab the bull by its horns and to help our society in facing the current challenges. We can even lead ourselves. For instance, when Blaženka launched the idea about Women in Surveying, she was already paving the way to the achievement of one of these SDGs at our humble level: SDG number 5 about Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. I can see imagine in our virtual room that there are a huge percentage of the audience that probably will share these views... With this theme, we might inspire CLGE for the next year, who knows.

I wish you all a fruitful and entertaining Symposium 2020, a year and an edition that we will not forget too soon.

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