



CLGE / GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ATHENS, Friday 4 – Saturday 5 June 2021

Honorable Members of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors,

Dear National Representatives,

Dear cCllleagues,

On behalf of the Technical Chamber of Greece, and its President Giorgos Stasinou, I welcome you to hospitable Greece and to the General Assembly of the European Council of Surveying Engineers.

First of all, I would like to point out what an honor and a pleasure it is for us to host and organize the General Assembly of the European Council of Surveying Engineers in our country.

And the joy becomes bigger as the 6th Panhellenic Conference was organized by the Panhellenic Association of Certified Rural Surveyors at the same time.

Due to these congresses, we will all have the opportunity to exchange views, experiences, opinions, and suggestions that will help us in the coming months and years.

Because the work that we have ahead is hard for each one of our countries and the whole of Europe as well.

As we all know, the European Union is at a turning point these days.

On the one hand, the crisis of the pandemic has created a unique situation for all people.

On the other hand, the unprecedented measures that the governments had to take in order to deal with the crisis.

I am not referring so much to the part of the public health sector which is in a tragic phase, and because of that, we are all forced to adapt every single day to a new regularity...

I am mainly emphasizing the economic measures that are affecting the whole economy, in each country separately.

The pandemic made the “New Generation EU” to create a new policy and a new tool as well, the Recovery and Resilience Fund.

In response to the crisis that all countries are facing, the European Union for the first time in history has decided to give new EU resources to all Member States for projects most of which concern engineers.

And to a large extent, they are related to and will involve Surveyor Engineers.

Especially regarding our country, the projects planned for the next 9-10 years, including the next programming period of the regular EU budget, are unique in history.

Green transition and de-lignification with changes of land use in huge areas. Large Urban Regenerations. Investments in building renovations. They are all projects that require an interdisciplinary approach, with all the specialties of engineers. And other scientists.

At the same time, in our country, with the contribution of the TCG, a huge urban planning program is being organized for 80% of the country, as the areas, outside the cities, do not have official plans in order and do not have specific land uses. It is a project related to Surveyors Engineers, and it will be mainly of their concern.

In parallel, the cadastre of the country is being completed within a few years, which is a huge project that was missing from our country and was a key field of occupation for colleagues.

At the same time, however, we are entering a new, digital age. A new project, the Unified Digital Map, which is planned for the first time and will be implemented in a few years, will connect the city plans, all the urban data and the institutional geospatial data in a single map and in a single format in order to be useful to all public administration, professionals, businesses, and citizens.

It is the first substantial overall integration of geospatial data in the form of use by all relevant parties that is implemented in our country.

And it is based on INSPIRE directive, but it goes far beyond what the directive provides.

I do not want to tire you. I'm sure you have a lot of interesting things to discuss.

The times we live in are interesting and challenging because they open new roads and perspectives, along with the threats and difficulties we face.

TCG will close to you, to cooperate and look closer at the issues that concern all of us.

I hope that you will have a fruitful discussion, and I wish especially you, who are physically present here in Athens, to have a good, beautiful, and safe experience in our hospitable country.

Thank you very much.

Giannis Machikas