

Dear colleagues and friends,

As in all branches of human knowledge, a strong specialisation has been imposed in the field of Geomatics and Topography. This is due to the complexity and necessity that these are acquiring in the global model of sustainable growth of our societies. In other words, the continuous professional development of our professionals will have to be characterised by adaptation to scientific and technical changes to the way we satisfy needs and solve problems.

One of these challenges is the fragility of ecosystems, due to the pressures to which they are subjected (urban sprawl, increased water demand, pollution from agricultural or industrial activities, overexploitation of natural resources, etc.) and the risks arising from global climate change (floods and droughts, rising sea levels, etc.). In this context, it is imperative to have national and globally agreed strategies as an effective instrument to help achieve efficient land management. These will be managed by trained and experienced professionals, such as surveyors. The geomatics framework provides an intrinsically spatial dimension necessary for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of information to support environmental policies and, in particular, hydrography and oceanography as key issues of the 2030 agenda of the SDGs.

I would not like to end these brief words without a reflection on two aspects. One is the inclusion of new competences and capacities in emerging sectors such as the "Blue environment" for our professionals in training programmes on water governance policies at universities, in industry and in competent professional institutions in the field of Geomatics and Surveying. The other, a greater involvement of the new generations of surveyors, these precursors of change, harnessing enthusiasm and making it the focus of inspiration of our work towards a profession of the future, contributing to a safer and more sustainable world.

We hope that this Blue Surveying Conference represents the voice of society's common interest in this essential resource; WATER, and the need

for the active participation of our professionals, the Surveyors, and their fundamental contribution through the Science of Geomatics.

At this point, I would just like to welcome the attendees, on behalf of the partners and the organising Institutions of this Eighth CLGE Conference of the European Surveyor. Thank you for attending "BLUE SURVEYING". May your work here be fruitful and productive.

Andrés Díez Galilea

Dean, COIGT