



The Tartu Declaration.

Adopted at the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors Conference (CLGE¹) General Assembly,
Tartu, 09 May 2026,

“Boundary markers have an important future.”

The European Geodetic Surveyors, gathered at the CLGE General Assembly in Tartu in Estonia, to reaffirm their commitment to advancing the land and geodetic surveying profession across Europe. Building on the legacy of previous CLGE General Assemblies and Conferences, they adopt the following declaration:

CLGE recommends the preservation of the use of physical boundary monumentation as an essential element of property protection and legal certainty in Europe. Property boundaries are not abstract digital lines but definitive agreements between neighbours that must be clearly and durably marked on the ground. Physical markers make these agreements visible and understandable for landowners, authorities, and third parties.

Visible monumentation helps prevent disputes by allowing all parties concerned to immediately identify their rights without the need to consult professionals, courts, or digital tools. Experience shows that when boundary markers are absent, uncertainty increases and disputes become more frequent and costly. Weakening monumentation therefore risks undermining, rather than improving, the system of property rights.

Digital tools and GNSS cannot reliably replace physical markers, as positioning is affected by technical limitations, deliberate or accidental interference, changing coordinate systems, and environmental factors. Without permanent reference points on the ground, it is impossible to verify whether digital data still reflects the agreed boundary.

Boundary markers are not obsolete, on the contrary they are recommended. They serve a long-term legal and technical function, ensuring stability and trust between neighbours. CLGE therefore considers monumentation a proven and proportionate safeguard of property rights and legal certainty, and calls for legislation to strengthen its quality and durability rather than abandon it.

Signed in Tartu, 09 May 2026

Thomas Jacubeit
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¹ CLGE Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens – Council of European Geodetic Surveyors