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**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EUROPEAN SURVEYORS**  
**issued by the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors –**  
**Geometer Europas (CLGE - GE)**

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**Preamble**

European Surveyors are professionals with the academic and professional qualifications and legal and technical expertise to undertake a range of surveying tasks (a non definitive definition of the profession is described in Appendix 1 to this Code of Conduct).

The work of European Surveyors is fundamental to the provision, delimitations, maintenance and enhancement of the economic, physical and social setting in which all human activities take place. In their roles within the environment, and the functioning of the legal systems of Europe, they recognise their basic responsibility to ensure the protection of both consumers and our unique environment. In this way, European Surveyors make an exceptional and vital contribution to the quality of life for all European consumers.

Their professionalism, skill, expertise and objectivity in achieving the efficient and effective planning and administration of the physical, social, legal and economic environment ensures the quality and sustainability of all of human activities undertaken within Europe. Thus, they have a clear and constant responsibility to the European Community, their respective governments, their clients and to the wider public, for the long-term well-being of both current and future generations.

Their professional expertise and independence which are underpinned by the highest levels of professionalism and ethical principles ensure the quality of surveying services. This is assured by the disciplinary regulations of their national associations, this Code of Conduct and, where appropriate, by legal authorisation and national regulations.

## **Article 1 Introduction**

1. In accordance with Article 37 of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market (2006/123/EC), CLGE-GE issues this Code of Conduct to facilitate the provision of services and the establishment of a surveyor within Member States of the European Union, and CLGE/GE.
2. This Code of Conduct is also issued with a view to ensuring the highest quality services, to promoting higher levels of confidence in the relationship between European Surveyors and consumers, and to enhancing the image of the profession within Europe.
3. This Code of Conduct reinforces and clarifies the highest standard of professional behaviour among European Surveyors. European Surveyors are bound to respect this Code of Conduct wherever they provide their services either temporarily or permanently, regardless of their professional status.

## **Article 2 General Principles**

1. European Surveyors and their employees respect and comply with all European and national laws, regulations, technical rules, accepted standards, norms and codes of practice appropriate to and required by their profession, and in relation to the services which they undertake to perform.
2. Except where national regulations preclude this, European Surveyors are personally responsible for their own work and for the work of their employees. They recognise the importance of appropriate consultation to ensure suitable solutions.
3. European Surveyors are aware of their fundamental responsibility to the general public and to future generations for their role in the development of a sustainable European economic, social and physical environment.

4. European Surveyors are honest, impartial, independent, discrete, objective and transparent in all their dealings. They do not discriminate against those to whom, for whom and with whom they provide services but are guided entirely by professional and ethical principles.
5. European Surveyors provide services for which they are competent. They ensure that their employees in the provision of service have the necessary competence to undertake those services.
6. European Surveyors provide services with the highest levels of professional care and diligence. They are continually updating their skills and knowledge, and incorporating and researching technical developments and improvements into their service provision.

### **Article 3 Relationship to Recipients of Services**

1. Recognising that trust is fundamental in their relationships with their clients, European Surveyors respect the confidentiality of their clients and their clients' interests.
2. European Surveyors are discrete. They respect and safeguard the confidentiality of information acquired from clients. They ensure that such information is not disclosed to others except in specified circumstances and normally with the consent of the client. They ensure that this discretion applies equally to their employees.
3. European Surveyors provide objective, independent and impartial services. Any external pressures and conflicts of interest are to be dealt with professionally, and they ensure that both clients and other stakeholders are fully aware of any risk to the objectivity of their services. They ensure that their employees in the provision of services adopt a similar approach.
4. European Surveyors recognise their wider responsibilities to the general public, government and other stakeholders and to their own professional status and conduct themselves accordingly.

5. European Surveyors ensure that those to whom a task is delegated have the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake the work efficiently and effectively, and they provide adequate supervision of such staff.
6. European Surveyors ensure that any description of the services they offer is accurate, complete and clear and they respect the limitations imposed on advertising their professional services. Similarly, the terms on which their services are offered and the means of calculating their remuneration are transparent, available and exclude unfair competition.
7. European Surveyors do not accept any remuneration or compensation, either for themselves or for others, from a third party which might risk a conflict of interest or impose an external pressure on their normal service provision.
8. CLGE/GE highly recommends that European surveyors hold professional indemnity insurance. European Surveyors inform their clients about the nature and level of any insurance cover held, or any other form of guarantee which is equivalent, to cover liabilities in the event of adverse effects resulting from errors or omissions made in the provision of surveying services.

## **Article 4**

### **Relationship with other Surveyors**

1. European Surveyors are professional, courteous and honest in all their dealings with their fellow surveyors. They support and encourage the development of a common professional culture and identity at both national and European levels.
2. European Surveyors only undertake work previously executed by colleagues provided that the previous contracts have been terminated or renounced.
3. European Surveyors are respectful of the professional opinion of their colleagues.
4. European Surveyors with a wider experience assume the ethical task to transmit their own knowledge and expertise to less experienced surveyors.

## **Article 5**

### **Professional qualification and development**

1. European Surveyors are educated, trained and professionally qualified at the highest levels required of surveyors within their own European countries.
2. European Surveyors maintain and enhance their knowledge and expertise, and take appropriate steps to extend their competencies as the demand for new services develops. They undertake an appropriate programme of continuing professional development throughout their working lives.
3. European Surveyors support the development and the future of their profession. This may be achieved in various ways, for example, by taking an active role in their national associations, or by assisting less qualified and less knowledgeable colleagues in the development of their professional careers.
4. European Surveyors do not bring the profession of surveying into disrepute.

## **Article 6**

### **Monitoring and implementation of the Code**

1. All CLGE-GE member associations will implement the principles of this Code of Conduct in their national systems. They guarantee to monitor compliance with these principles within their own regulatory systems.
2. If a European Surveyor breaches the principles of the CLGE-GE Code of Conduct when providing cross-border services, the national association of the host country will inform the national association of the home country of all relevant circumstances, including all legal sanctions that have been taken.
3. Upon receipt of sufficient information, the national association of the home country will investigate the case and take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the national legal or regulatory provisions, or in accordance with the regulations of the national association, as appropriate. Where national associations impose sanctions on an individual member as a

result of such information, they undertake to inform the national association of the host country of their actions.

## **Article 7**

### **Accessibility of the Code**

The Code of Conduct will be made available on the website of the CLGE-GE and of its member associations.

Adopted by the CLGE General Assembly, and Geometer Europas, with respect to the national transposition process.

Rome, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009,

President CLGE  
Henning Elmstroem

President Geometer Europas  
Alain Gaudet

President CNG  
Fausto Savoldi

## Appendix 1: FIG Definition of the Functions of the Surveyor (2004)<sup>1</sup>

### **Summary**

A surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualifications and technical expertise to conduct one, or more, of the following activities;

- to determine, measure and represent land, three-dimensional objects, point-fields and trajectories;
- to assemble and interpret land and geographically related information,
- to use that information for the planning and efficient administration of the land, the sea and any structures thereon; and,
- to conduct research into the above practices and to develop them.

### **Detailed Functions**

The surveyor's professional tasks may involve one or more of the following activities which may occur either on, above or below the surface of the land or the sea and may be carried out in association with other professionals.

1. The determination of the size and shape of the earth and the measurement of all data needed to define the size, position, shape and contour of any part of the earth and monitoring any change therein.
2. The positioning of objects in space and time as well as the positioning and monitoring of physical features, structures and engineering works on, above or below the surface of the earth.
3. The development, testing and calibration of sensors, instruments and systems for the above-mentioned purposes and for other surveying purposes.
4. The acquisition and use of spatial information from close range, aerial and satellite imagery and the automation of these processes.
5. The determination of the position of the boundaries of public or private land, including national and international boundaries, and the registration of those lands with the appropriate authorities.
6. The design, establishment and administration of geographic information systems (GIS) and the collection, storage, analysis, management, display and dissemination of data.
7. The analysis, interpretation and integration of spatial objects and phenomena in GIS, including the visualisation and communication of such data in maps, models and mobile digital devices.
8. The study of the natural and social environment, the measurement of land and marine resources and the use of such data in the planning of development in urban, rural and regional areas.
9. The planning, development and redevelopment of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a worldwide definition of the term « surveyor ». The European specificities are still to be included.

10. The assessment of value and the management of property, whether urban or rural and whether land or buildings.
11. The planning, measurement and management of construction works, including the estimation of costs.

In the application of the foregoing activities surveyors take into account the relevant legal, economic, environmental and social aspects affecting each project.