

Heads of EuroGeographics members

EuroGeographics Head Office
Rue du Nord 76/Noordstraat 76
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

w. eurogeographics.org
e. contact@eurogeographics.org
t. +32 (0) 2 888 71 93
f. +32 (0) 2 888 71 94

Our Ref: 2019-0058.LT

Brussels, 9th July 2019

Dear colleagues

Note to EuroGeographics Members from the President

Update from EuroGeographics Management Board

Last week, your Management Board met in Copenhagen to review EuroGeographics strategy. Our discussions focused on the need to evolve the Association's current strategy to realise the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing environment which impacts on us all. I recently wrote to you about Head Office's progress in this review. I wanted to write again as soon as possible after our Management Board meeting to update you about our next steps.

We had an excellent two days of discussion and all members of the Management Board contributed in open, constructive and positive conversations about the future. I would also like to thank those of you who wrote to me with your views which were also invaluable.

Our discussions were fully informed by detailed and thorough preparatory work, including detailed financial analyses, extensive discussion papers containing strategic analyses with a range of options, carried out by Head Office. On behalf of all Management Board members, I would like to congratulate them on their professionalism and the level of briefing material prepared, particularly following such significant changes within the team.

Since the Extraordinary General Assembly, Mick Cory and I have also met with our key stakeholders Eurostat and the European Environment Agency. Mick has kept us informed of his continuing conversations with these institutions and others, and he has a number of additional important meetings planned over the summer. The recent publication of the Open Data PSI Directive only confirms the significant shift that is happening in our operating environment: one that will affect all of our organisations too, not just the Head Office. Discussions held at the UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary confirms that the landscape is changing globally, not just within the European Union (EU).

Our product-oriented approach now needs to evolve by building on our current pan-European datasets, including the Core Reference Data CRD and others such as the cadastral index map. Facilitating access to your data will continue to be our key focus. We

remain committed to helping you to unlock its value across the European and international system and integrating it into a sustainable infrastructure for the public good.

This key focus will drive our representation activity which will have a renewed and reinvigorated focus on European and global geospatial developments of interest to all our members. It will be supported by two-way communication through our knowledge exchange networks and activities.

At our heart we are – and will remain – a collaborative network of members in a unique Association of mapping, cadastre and land registries. Our strength lies in the ability to cooperate and to share our data, our experience and our knowledge for the wider public good.

Management Board's discussions and analysis suggest that our vision and mission remain valid for the current period (2017-2020). The three strategic pillars of representation, knowledge exchange and facilitating access to your data, are a solid foundation for this strategic period. We do however see the need to refocus how we undertake these important activities, and so our plans will develop further over the summer for presentation to the General Assembly in Manchester. We believe that this change is beneficial, not only for our members and for EuroGeographics, but for society at large who will benefit from the use of official geographic information.

We will continue our conversation with you up to and during the General Assembly, where we hope to secure a mandate for our journey and direction of travel for the coming year and beyond. Your attendance at the General Assembly is therefore crucial for our conversation about what we will do and how we should do it to secure a consensus about our Association's future.

Until the General Assembly in Manchester, please feel free to contact me, or Mick, to ensure that your views and aspirations for our Association are taken on board in these developing plans.

I look forward to seeing you then!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Bray', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Colin Bray

President
EuroGeographics AISBL