

To all Members of EuroGeographics

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

Date: 25 October 2019

Our Ref: **2019-0123.LT**

Dear Colleagues,

General Assembly 2019

I promised to write to you following our very successful General Assembly in Manchester outlining our agreed position on the future direction of EuroGeographics.

Before I do so, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for re-election as President of EuroGeographics. The next two years are critical for us all, and I welcome the opportunity to help guide and steer our Association to future successes.

From our discussions, it is clear that you want EuroGeographics to remain a unique collaborative network of cadastral, land registry and mapping organisations from across the whole of Europe. Our primary goal will be to continue to maintain our membership Association and its values, sustaining and building our collaborative network of members. To achieve this, we are agreed that it is vital that we continue to cooperate and share our data, our experience and our knowledge.

It is also clear that there has been a change in our operating environment that impacts on all of our organisations, including your Association, which has had to take steps to mitigate the budgetary consequences of this change. However, we cannot continue to make cuts to our budgets without impacting on the value that EuroGeographics brings to you, our members.

As set out by Mick in his presentation, as well as in the papers and during your roundtable discussions, the General Assembly agreed that our focus will now move away from sales with a greater emphasis on facilitating access to your data. This will drive our representation activity and be supported by two-way communication through our knowledge exchange and other membership activities. On behalf of your Management Board, I would like to thank you for agreeing our plans for a new strategic direction for your Association

The Management Board, with Head Office, will now take the necessary steps on your behalf to:

- Work towards a sustainable budget, to maintain a viable organisation, taking the necessary steps to achieve this;
- Evolve our current product-oriented approach by making our pan-European datasets accessible and open, and where funding is available other fundamental data themes, integrating these data into sustainable European and international infrastructure for the public good;
- Work in partnership with you and key stakeholders to achieve what we all believe is in the public interest – that is the widespread use of your authoritative geospatial data and infrastructure across the European and international system;
- Develop a draft strategy with budget proposals to be presented at next year's General Assembly (in line with end of the current strategy 2017-2020).

Neither the Management Board nor the Head Office can act alone; it is essential that all members provide their support by committing to:

- Strengthen the effectiveness of our representation of your interests in the International institutions by committing to support and coordinating our international positions, in particular with the European Union. Mick will be writing to you shortly to explain how this will be taken forward.
- Make appropriate datasets widely available for the public good to meet international requirements under terms that are free for use and reuse consistent with the new Open Data PSI Directive. This requires sustainable funding in an appropriate model. Further work is required but rest assured we cannot just 'give away' your data without this being addressed. Head Office will begin this work immediately, and will be writing to you with more details over the coming months.

As I said during the General Assembly, now is the time for action, the time for us to use our collective expertise and experience so that together we can deliver our ambition of a society empowered by the use of trusted geospatial services from official national sources. I am grateful to you for providing the Management Board with a clear mandate to develop a new strategy and budgetary plans during the next year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, any Management Board member, or Mick, to ensure that we take on your views, as we cannot do this alone. Together we must now grasp the opportunity to adapt our activities and strategy to meet these challenges. Together we are stronger, and together we can renew and revive our strategic response to ensure that we remain relevant in an ever-changing world.

Yours sincerely

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

Colin Bray
President, EuroGeographics