

## **Extraordinary General Assembly 2018**

**Leuven, Belgium**

**Tuesday 15 May 2018 to Wednesday 16 May 2018**

### **Record of Proceedings**

**Tuesday 15 May 2018**

**Faculty Club, Leuven**

**11.45 to 12.05**

### **Formal Business of EuroGeographics AISBL**

The Extraordinary General Assembly, held on Tuesday 15 May 2018 in the Faculty Club, Leuven began with a welcome from [Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics](#) who reminded members of the procedure for Formal Business. He also emphasised that only EuroGeographics members could attend this session and explained the voting process as required by the Articles of Association. Only Full Members who have paid their subscription in full as of midnight 14 May 2018 are permitted to vote but Associate Members can remain as observers.

Mr Cory told members that this was their opportunity to scrutinise the financial accounts before they are registered at the Belgium Court of Commerce as required by EuroGeographics not-for-profit status. There were no applications for membership this year.

He also explained that as Angela Matcov was no longer working within a member organisation, David Henderson from Ordnance Survey Great Britain had taken on the role of Treasurer. In addition, the Association had experienced some challenges filling the post of Financial Manager and Association Secretary.

The conference appointed two independent scrutineers, Amalia Velasco Martin-Varés, Spanish Cadastre and Haico van der Vegt, Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency, The Netherlands to oversee the voting process. Sallie Payne Snell and Patricia Sokacova would perform the count. A simple majority was needed.

The results will be announced following the afternoon coffee break.

[David Henderson, EuroGeographics Treasurer](#) presented the Association's 2017 Financial Report and Accounts. Members had received detailed information in the papers sent out prior to the meeting. His aim was to provide a high-level overview to help members better understand the figures prepared by Head Office and EuroGeographics accountants 'Fiduciaire Optimea'. He thanked Mick Cory, Head Office and [Igor Caldeira, former EuroGeographics Financial Manager and Association Secretary](#) for their professional approach to managing the accounts. The accounts were approved by the Management Board on 19 April 2018 and are presented to members with its blessing. 2017 was an important year for EuroGeographics with investment in the European Location Services Transition Programme and the Open ELS Project. Members were

reminded that the Budget, approved by the General Assembly in October 2016, was revised by the Management Board in July 2017 to take into account: The financial position of the Association at the end of 2016; the actual costs of delivering the 2017 operating plan in the first 6 months of 2017; and the expenditure plans for the Open ELS project following the May 2017 approval of EC grant funding. The review increased the forecast for budgeted expenditure as well as income.

Reserves decreased from €1,048,524 at 1 January 2017 to € 853,702 at 31 December 2017. It was noted that this deficit was less than forecast but was expected to increase with further investment in the Open ELS Project.

Mr Henderson concluded that the Association's finances remain healthy and require continued careful financial management to mitigate potential risks as it draws down on reserves over the next 15 months to fund the transition to an operational European Location Service.

## **Questions**

[Gerda Schennach, Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying](#), Austria brought attention to the Explanatory Notes, page four, item two which related to an increase in General Assembly and Management Board costs. She requested it be noted that as hosts of the 2017 BEV had 80% of previous General Assembly budgets and had stayed below this.

[Sallie Payne Snell, Head of Operations and Association Management, EuroGeographics](#) explained that the figures were not specific to the 2017 General Assembly but reflected a wider trend which saw more members participating in both Extraordinary General Assemblies and General Assemblies. As a result, Head Office costs had increased as staff were spending more time on organisation and logistics.

[Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director](#) agreed to amend the report to make this clear.

The Treasurer and Management Board recommended members approve the 2017 accounts

**12.05 to 12.50**

**Voting and lunch**

**12.50 to 13.20**

**Introduction to the Extraordinary General Assembly – and the 4 pillars of activity, Products, Projects, Representation and Knowledge Exchange**

[Ingrid Vanden Berghe, President, EuroGeographics](#) welcomed 62 delegates from 34 member organisations to the Faculty Club in the heart of historic Leuven, noting that day two would take place in the traditional venue of the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe.

Mrs Vanden Berghe also extended a warm welcome to guest speakers: Günter Schaefer, Head of Unit, Eurostat, Quirico D'Amico, Copernicus EMS Rapid Mapping Production Coordinator, e-Geos, Michael Standar, Chief Strategy and External Affairs, SESAR, Bengt Kjellson, Chair UN-GGIM: Europe and Joep Crompvoets, Secretary General, EuroSDR.

She said that as a member-driven Association, EuroGeographics' members collaborate, exchange knowledge and network, not only as colleagues but also as friends. Last year, they worked together to develop a new strategy that ensures EuroGeographics can achieve its aims and facilitate the delivery of an operational European Location Service while continuing to deliver value to members. The new strategy sets a clear strategic response to the challenges and opportunities ahead and was approved by members at the 2017 General Assembly.

The agenda for the next two days highlights how EuroGeographics continues to support the public good by representing members' interests, maintaining networks that help them to improve their capabilities and role, and by facilitating access to and use of their geospatial services. In doing so, it aims to realise this vision of a society empowered by their authoritative geospatial services.

Finally she reminded delegates that two workshops were taking place after the close of the Extraordinary General Assembly; one on development and funding, the other on disruptive technologies.

[Sallie Payne Snell, Head of Operations and Association Management, EuroGeographics](#) then outlined the Association's new branding and gave a preview of the new website. This included a new visual language reflecting EuroGeographics brand values and a new image library. The website was due to go live on 21 May with member being able to log in from 22 May onwards.

## **13.40 – 15.00**

### **Products**

[Angela Baker, EuroGeographics Sales, Marketing and Channel Manager](#) chaired the session on products. She introduced [Regine Elling, EuroRegionalMap Production Manager](#) and thanked to entire production team for their support. The session would reflect customer use of EuroGeographics data and provide information on some important developments.

Regina then provided review of the 2017 production year and arrangements for 2018. Delegates heard that Croatia would be included in EuroRegionalMap for the first time and that Kadaster Netherlands had taken over quality management.

Mick Cory then presented on core reference datasets. He explained EuroGeographics has responded to the public consultation on technical requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of Corrine Land Cover (CLC) products to develop a "CLC-Backbone" of persistent spatial objects proposed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and DG GROW.

EuroGeographics' vision is to meet a number of demands within European Commission, starting with priority themes and then moving towards European Location Services. He stressed the importance that Members must act now and deliver!

[Günter Schaefer, Head of Unit, Eurostat](#) explained it uses EuroGeographics' products because they are reliable and authoritative. He said EU wide geospatial products are desperately needed and the wish list for the future includes enhanced data quality, enhanced data support, better licensing conditions for redistribution together with intensive cooperation between NMCA's and NSIs for SDGs and GI for statistics. He concluded his presentation by thanking EuroGeographics and its members for more than 25 years of excellent cooperation.

[Production coordinator Quirico D'amico, E-GEOS](#) talked about Copernicus EMS and how it uses EuroGeographics data. He gave a detailed explanation of how the rapid mapping system works before outlining the benefits and challenges of using high quality NMCA data. The example of the earthquakes in Italy was used to illustrate these points.

Mrs Baker concluded the session by urging members to sign up to the EMS if they had not already done so.

**15.00 – 15.30**

**Coffee break**

**15.30**

**Results of Vote to approve EuroGeographics AISBL 2017 Financial Report and Accounts**

For – 85

Abstained - 3

The EuroGeographics AISBL 2017 Financial Report and Accounts were approved.

**15.35 – 16.30**

**Projects**

[Helen Kaestner, Transition Programme Manager, EuroGeographics](#) gave an update on progress and said that ELF developments have been incorporated and further maintained as a part of European Location Services. EuroGeographics was to issue a request for information for a partner to develop an operational European Location Service. Open services are being developed under the Open ELS project, which is a subset of European Location Services.

[Dominik Kopczewski, Policy Development Manager, EuroGeographics](#) outlined the work to define what open data means in practice - the assumption is that it means open to access and free of charge. The Open ELS Project survey reveals that NMCA's provide at least some of open data, but the scope varies from country to country. The Open ELS Project data policy defines open data and provides a framework for establishing a licensing model.

It applies only to geospatial pan European data and services developed and maintained by EuroGeographics and will be reviewed.

[Abigail Page, Technical Product Development Manager](#) gave an update on European Location Services user testing for specific use cases, initially with EEA. She reported on plans to engage software vendors and SMES for establishing tools for connecting to European Location Services. Next steps will involve the first versions of the Open ELS Products with feedback from users (including SMEs).

[Saulius Urbanas, Service Development Consultant](#) explained that European Location Services use the national services and data contributed by NMCAs for the ELF project. The most popular is GeoLocator with 24 contributors, and the most popular WFS themes are Geographical Names, Administrative units, Addresses, Transport networks and Cadastral parcels.

EuroGeographics is prioritising these for further coverage in European Location Services. He called on all members to contribute but in particular the 39 EU and EEA countries which are defined as a priority. Support for new data providers is available and includes training, consultation, arranging meetings and workshops to guide service development.

An interactive Question and Answer session using Sli.do technology followed. A summary is available in Appendix A.

### **Questions and Answers**

[Ekkehard Petri, Eurostat](#) asked if EuroGeographics could fully rely on INSPIRE data to implement European Location Services as this is available from national geoportals? Saulius Urbanas replied that this was difficult because different countries were implementing INSPIRE in different ways. Using the ELF specification means that the different national datasets are compliant with one another. ELF and European Location Services were in fact guiding the practical implementation of INSPIRE. Ingrid Vanden Berghe asked how much work was needed to bridge the gap between INSPIRE-compliant data and the interoperable data needed? How long would it be before European Location Services offered full coverage?

Saulius said that some countries contracted this work out. In terms of achieving full coverage, he believed that once members saw real use of the data, they would be prompted to join.

Mick Cory added that the challenge was that members had national priorities. He said that EuroGeographics was committed to its role as a membership association and that having a partner deliver the service would ensure it could continue to do this.

David Henderson concluded the session by saying that there were a lot of people working hard to deliver European Location Services for the benefit of NMCAs and it was important this was recognised by the wider membership community.

## **16.30-17.30**

### **Representation**

François Chirie, Copernicus Task Force Leader outlined EuroGeographics representation activities which focus on policy issues such as the Copernicus programme, geospatial information for transport (autonomous vehicles), Digital Single Market, cadastre policy issue (GDPR) and INSPIRE.

He said that to influence European policies, a unique voice was needed and gave the example of EuroGeographics engagement with Copernicus.

Neil Sutherland, Single Digital Market Task Force Leader presented on the importance of the review PSI and Database Directives. He outlined EuroGeographics response to the Commission's consultations, flagged up the next steps and highlighted a number of issues for members to consider.

An interactive Question and Answer session using Sli.do technology followed. A summary is available in Appendix A.

## **17.30**

Close of day one

## **Wednesday 16 May 2018**

### **Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe**

## **08.45 – 09.00**

### **Welcome back and introduction to day two**

Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics welcomed delegates back for the second day of the agenda. He reminded them that the previous day had focused on users and the use of data, providing valuable feedback to help further develop products and services. Today would focus on the value and benefits of EuroGeographics membership with updates on the activities of the Knowledge Exchange Networks and a preview of the 2018 General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic.

## **09.00 – 09.30**

Michael Standar, Chief Strategy & External Affairs, SESAR gave the keynote presentation on delivering through collaboration & Public Private Partnerships – the SESAR Joint Undertaking. The European project has evolved over many years to deliver tangible results but required patience and trust in realising its common vision. He noted that Europe and all its players coming together has a value for the rest of the world and stressed that you need to demonstrate substance as well as style when engaging with stakeholders. Credibility is vital and can be demonstrated through the development of standards and prototypes.

### **Questions**

Angela Baker asked how did SESAR engage with 44 countries to get them all on board?

Mr Standar said it was a long process that required their willingness to come together to find a way for more efficient air traffic control. Once the will was there, a common vision was required. This was aided by European legislation and coordination from the Civil Aviation Authority and International Civil Aviation Organization.

[Martin Salzmann, Kadaster, Netherlands](#) noted it could be difficult to make decisions that were implementable for all parties – what advice could he give?

Mr Standar said trust and patience were vital as participants had different cultures and ways of working. You need to develop a common concept and place yourself in it.

Carol Agius asked what does the undertaking mean in terms of results?

Mr Standar replied that the development of prototypes gave tangible results and validate the process in 'real life'. He advised ensuring that the last 10% of a project does not take up 90% of the time!

[Bengt Kjellson, Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe](#) spoke about its role in strengthening the global data ecosystem, particularly through the global development policy framework and 2030 Agenda. He highlighted the importance of integrating information systems and working with the statistical community, giving several examples of how UN-GGIM: Europe achieves this.

[Joep Cromptvoets, Secretary-General, EuroSDR](#) then spoke on its well-established partnership with EuroGeographics. He stressed the importance of data as the foundation for a geo ecosystem and gave examples from the past, present and future. He concluded by thanking EuroGeographics members for their on-going constructive cooperation.

## **Questions**

Mick Cory asked what were the challenges and opportunities going forward and what should members be concerned about?

Mr Kjellson said that a big window of opportunity had opened for NMCAs but they needed to move fast and deliver concrete results that others could easily understand.

Mick Cory also thanked Joep and EuroSDR for their partnership and support.

## **10.30 to 11.00 Coffee Break**

## **11.00 – 12.30**

After hearing an overview of KEN activities from [Carol Agius, UN-GGIM: Europe Administrator and KEN Coordinator, EuroGeographics](#), delegates then participated in the Ready, Steady KEN roundtable discussions.



A summary is available at Appendix B.

### **12.30 – 12.45**

#### **Look ahead to 2018 General Assembly**

[Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics](#) spoke of the technical, legal, policy and organisational challenges facing members in delivering operational data and services to customers as well as securing a partner for ELS.

He posed the question: What do we mean by Authoritative data? This will be one of the key messages for the 2018 General Assembly which will also look at the opportunities presented by Agenda 2030. This will be hosted by Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre in Prague from 8 to 10 October and

### **12.45 – 13.00**

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

[Ingrid Vanden Berghe, President, EuroGeographics](#) closed the Extraordinary General Assembly by saying she hoped that the agenda was useful, relevant but above all inspiring and urged participants to share the content with colleagues on their return to the office.

She reiterated the importance of members' work, noting that Gunter Schaefer had given a clear statement of the value of reliable geospatial data for the Commission – indeed none of its priorities can be addressed without it.

The geospatial community had much in common with the aviation sector, and Michael Standar's keynote had given members much to think about. The good news was that they have a long tradition of cooperation as Joep Crompvoets reminded delegates in his presentation. Mrs Vanden Berghe said that Bengt Kjellson had rightly noted that the sector needs to change the language it uses to achieve buy-in from outside as well as delivering tangible results.

The Commission and its institutions have access to pan-European geospatial information and related services through EuroGeographics agreement with Eurostat. To continue to meet its demand, members need to deliver more. The European Location Services programme, along with the Open ELS Project, is progressing well but we need to remain mindful of user needs - and expectations. The Commission has asked for a new core reference dataset and members must demonstrate that they are ready, willing and able to meet its demands.

She ended by outlining the ways in which EuroGeographics continues to support the public good and in particular its vision of a society empowered by members' authoritative geospatial services. She urged delegates to join their association in making this happen by contributing to products, projects and knowledge exchange networks before thanking all involved in the success of the 2018 Extraordinary General Assembly.