

Madrid, July 17th 2023

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be able to address you on behalf of the Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre.

The Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre belongs to the Ministry of Finance and Public Function and is the Spanish Public Administration responsible for Cadastre, and therefore, is in charge of describing the properties of the country, and is responsible for providing and keeping updated the Real-estate Cadastre as well as of taking care of the correct diffusion of Cadastral data for 97% of Spain with exception, for historical reasons, of the provinces of the Basque Country and Navarra.

The Spanish Real Estate Cadastre is an administrative register in which the real property is described. This description includes its legal, physical and economic characteristics, featuring title holders data and their rights over the real estate; geographical representation, location, cadastral reference, surface, usages, class of crop, buildings, and cadastral values that are the basis for real estate taxation. The Cadastral Database contains graphic and alphanumerical information of 29'1 million of cadastral title holders, 39'5 million of urban real estate, 39 million of rural parcels and 6.359 of special characteristics real estate.

The main purpose of the Spanish General Directorate of Cadastral is of a tax nature, therefore, the principles that define the Cadastre's mission are the principle of generality (all properties must be included in the Cadastre), and the principle of fiscal justice (the cadastral value must be a valid index of taxable capacity, updated and indexed to market). But taxation is not the only purpose of the Spanish Cadastre, because its digital database is valuable territorial information allowing the location and identification of real estate as well as the supply of graphic and alphanumerical to other public entities and citizens.

The Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre develops its functions through the Central Office and 56 Offices distributed throughout the Provinces of the country. In addition, there are 4.070 cadastral information points (PIC), which are offices authorized by the Directorate General for Cadastre in different Public Organizations and Institutions, distributed throughout the territory, where citizens can access cadastral information and obtain certificates.

The Directorate General for Cadastre has a Strategic Plan with eight main strategic lines:

- The reference valuation and cadastral valuation of real estate.
- Collaborative maintenance for immediate update.
- Ensure Legal certainty.
- The development of rural land.
- Relations with citizens.
- Digital deployment.
- Organizational transformation.
- Institutional projection and international activity.



Further information about Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre is available at <https://www.catastro.minhfp.es/>

In addition, in a period of great challenges for the Member States and the European Union as a whole, the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union has established four priorities for its semester:

- **Reindustrialise the EU and ensure its open strategic autonomy**
- **Advance in the green transition and the environmental adaptation**
- **Promoting greater social and economic justice**
- **Strengthening European unity**

Further information about the prioritised areas is available at: <https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/es/programa/prioridades/>

To achieve all these objectives, it is necessary to have a reliable, complete, updated, available cadastre and, in the case of a tax cadastre such as the Spanish cadastre, to have all real estate correctly valued.

As well as it is necessary to strengthen alliances between European cadastral institutions continuing to make progress in integration of our data and develop and exchange ideas and tools that will allow us to face, together, the great challenges of our time.

We will continue working during this semester together with Eurogeographics, preparing an interesting congress that we will celebrate in October 25 to 27 in Madrid and we will put the emphasis on the following themes:

- 1. Land and property taxation and real estate valuation**
- 2. 3D cadastre**
- 3. Open Cadastral Maps**

We will soon prepare a questionnaire, as is traditional, on these topics and we will ask for your participation to present your experiences. We also intend to present an insight of the Spanish Cadastre with the same users perspective focus, as well as in the collaboration with Latin – American Cadastre”.

We hope that the chosen topics are of interest to you and we can count on your participation in the questionnaire and in the Congress and Assembly.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Madrid in October 2023.

An affectionate greeting

Fernando de Aragón
General Director of the Cadastre of Spain