

Comité Permanente sobre el Catastro, *The Permanent Committee on Cadastre*, Le Comité Permanent du Cadastre, Pysyvä Kiinteistöasiain Komitea, *O Comité Permanente do Cadastro*, Il Comitato Permanente del Catasto, *Kommitten för Fastighetsregisterfrågor*, De Permanente Commissie met Betrekking tot het Kadaster, *Komité Permanent Matrikul*, *ep??t??p? μ??μ?? ?t?mat??????*, *Ständiges Komitee für Kataster*

EUROPEAN UNION PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON CADASTRE Constitution

Ispra. 14th October 2002.

Present persons and organisations represented.

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Hugo DE GROOF European Commission-DG Environment	Antonio DE SANTIS Agenzia del Territorio Italy
Jacques DELINCÉ European Comisión-JRC-IPSC	Ignacio DURÁN BOO D.º General del Catastro Spain
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Abstract of the adopted agreements

1. Constitution of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre.
2. Functions of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre:
 - The Permanent Committee on Cadastre as a link between EU organisations and the Member States cadastral organisations.
 - Exchange of cadastral information, experiences and best practices between members. Information network about cadastral issues.
3. Members:
 - Membership status is open to the fifteen Member States of the European Union and the ten Candidate Countries that are to join the EU in 2004.
 - No more than one organisation representing each country. The selection of the institution to represent a member country in the Committee must be made by that specific country. This organisation will be responsible for the application of the “coordination clause”.
 - Observer’s status for EuroGeographics and UN ECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA).
4. Internal organisation:
 - Chairmanship system to manage the Committee without permanent staff.
 - No membership fees or budget to run the Permanent Committee on Cadastre is needed.
 - English and French as work languages for the written documents.
 - Spain will have the chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre until July 2003. Italy will assume this task during the 6 months of its EU Presidency and optionally 6 months more with the agreement of the PCC members.
5. Editorial team appointed to revise the constitution document to reflect agreements made at the meeting.
6. Creation of a web site for the Permanent Committee on Cadastre.
7. Establish and develop working projects linked to subjects of interest as expressed by the members.
8. Unanimous support for the “Expression of Interest” concerning FP6.
9. A common Declaration of the Cadastre in the EU is to be elaborated at a later stage.

1. - The Constitution of the PCC

After the individual introduction of all participants, the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Ignacio Duran Boo, on behalf of the General Director of the Cadastre of Spain excused his absence and did a brief overview of the proposals originally presented in Granada in May 2002. Some papers in English, French and Spanish were sent to all the participants before the meeting regarding main objectives and tasks. He emphasized the aim to promote the idea of the Cadastre in the European Union countries, with three main principles: the Permanent Committee on Cadastre only must work on the subject of Cadastre, only with member states, and only one institution representing for each country. He proposed the application of the principle of subsidiarity and underlined the importance of the presence of the cadastral managers from all the member states in this meeting.

After the presentation the chairman opened a round table to debate four points:

- Constitution of the Committee,
- Identification of the main working areas of the Committee,
- Internal coordination, and
- Specific projects.

All the participants expressed their opinions and every country showed their official position. As the result, the constitution of the PCC was approved without any opposition.

However France, United Kingdom and Greece pointed out the following reservations:

France is not ready to have an official position until all documents are available in French. In addition the following reservations were made:

- ? The aim should be to establish a forum where the EU institutions could consult.
- ? The aim of the Committee should not be to look for interoperability of the European cadastres.
- ? The Committee should not take decisions by vote and there should be no requirement for unanimous decisions.
- ? No creation of a Permanent Secretariat.
- ? Two work languages, French and English for all written documents.

UK supports the principle of having a European forum for the exchange of views and information on cadastral issues. It is important that this is done within the context of the wider GI environment however as part of the evolving European Spatial Data Infrastructure. To avoid duplication of effort and confusion over roles the work of the PCC needs to support and compliment the work of existing organisations which are already active in this field. UK will

support a PCC that fulfils this function but, mindful of the differences between cadastral activities in UK and in most mainland European countries, UK would prefer a status within the PCC that allows the option of low level participation.

Greece thinks that there is a need for a body that will enable communication among European cadastral organisations for the exchange of ideas and experience and this organisation may be the “Permanent Committee on Cadastre”. This body should function as an interlocutor with EU institutions on issues in which cadastre and land administration are involved. The Permanent Committee should operate in accordance with WPLA and EuroGeographics - in which the same national organisations will also be members - and its aims should not contradict or overlap with any of the other two organisations. The Permanent Committee must have a flexible structure without complicated rules and procedures.

KTIMATOLOGIO is interested in participating to the Permanent Committee but since its main focus for the forthcoming years, is the establishment of the cadastre in Greece, KTIMATOLOGIO will not be able to provide economic and human resources in the context of the Committee.

2. - The functions of the PCC

The representatives from the EU institutions present at the meeting made short presentations concerning their needs for contacts and information exchange with cadastral organisations in the members and candidate states.

As result of the discussion the following Committee functions were agreed upon by the representatives of the Member States:

- A link between EU organisations and the cadastral organisations of the members, and
- An information network about Cadastre to give the possibility to exchange information, experiences and best practices between members.

3. - PCC Members

Most of the Members States agree with the chairman’s statement to limit the composition of the PCC to the EU Member States and the Candidate Countries set to join the EU in 2004.

All countries agree with the proposition of having only one organisation for each country as representative for all the matters related with cadastral issues in the Permanent Committee on Cadastre. When in a country exist more than one organisation with cadastral responsibilities, the organisation in the PCC must apply the “coordination clause”, that means that this organisation shall be responsible for communicating matters of interest arising from the PCC

with other cadastral institutions in that country, and to promote the PCC's initiatives among those organisations.

It was suggested to open the possibility for different organisation related with land administration, like WPLA and EuroGeographics, to participate. All agree with the proposal statement and invite those two organisations as observers with the aim to collaborate in the common point of interest and to avoid overlapping work already undertaken and duplication of work.

A proposal of the Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying of the Swiss Government, contained in a letter of 2nd of October of 2002, requesting their participation in the PCC was presented. After due consideration, the participants from the Members States agreed that this application does not fit with the basic characteristics of the Committee. Nevertheless, it is decided that Switzerland can be invited under proposal of the Chairman for specific meetings or activities of the PCC.

After this discussion the participants agreed with the following proposals:

- Membership status in the Committee is open for the fifteen actual Member States of the EU and the ten Candidate Countries that are set to join the EU in 2004.
- No more than one organisation to represent each Member State. The selection of the institution to represent a member country in the Committee must be made by that specific country. This organisation will be responsible for the application of the "coordination clause".
- Observer's status for EuroGeographics and WPLA.

4. - PCC Organisation

The original proposition to lead the PCC by the country that has the European Union Presidency was agreed to be impractical. The chairmanship will be the system for managing the organisation and the responsibility will be taken periodically without any established order. It was decided that it was unnecessary to create a permanent secretariat.

For this initial period Spain proposed to assume the responsibility of the chairmanship until July 2003. Italy volunteers to assume the task after this date during the 6 months of the Italy EU Presidency and optionally 6 months more with the agreement of the PCC members.

There is agreement to start the activities of the Committee without any financing through membership fees or a budget.

The participants agree to use English and French as work languages for the written documents, and France undertakes to translate the documents into French.

In relation with the translation of documents, each country will take the responsibility to translate them into their own language if necessary. All the documents translated to the national languages will be made available on the web site.

After this discussion the participants from the Members States agreed on the following:

- Chairmanship system to manage the Committee without permanent staff.
- No membership fees or budget to run the Permanent Committee on Cadastre is needed.
- English and French as work languages for the written documents.
- Spain will have the chairmanship of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre until July 2003. Italy will assume this task during the 6 months of its EU Presidency and optionally 6 months more with the agreement of the PCC members.

5. - Editorial Team

For the elaboration of the final version of the constitution document of the PCC an editorial team is appointed. The members for this task are France, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

6. - Web site

Spain proposed to create a web site to host the PCC activities and keep the responsibility for this task during its chairmanship. Spain also proposed to assume the cost until July 2003.

The countries agreed with the creation of a web site for the PCC operability.

7. – Projects

The main operational work of the Committee will be establishing and developing specific projects related to the two functions of the Committee.

The members of the PCC will be free to take part in any of the projects depending on their interest in the subject matter.

All the members are invited to propose, before the end of the year, their subject of interest for projects where they will participate.

Spain and Belgium propose two projects:

- To identify the European policies that could need cadastral information to underpin them.
- To study the definition of a cadastral parcel in each EU member and candidate country.

The participants agree to the idea to establish and develop working projects linked to the subject of interest expressed by the members.

8. – “Expression of Interest”

The representative of the JRC informed the participants about the proposal to create a “Network of Excellence on Multipurpose Cadastre in Europe”, that the DG of the Cadastre of Spain, in collaboration with the JRC prepared and presented. He pointed out that, independently of the acceptance of the proposal made by the FP6 assessors, the DG of Cadastre of Spain considers it to be necessary to manifest their approval or rejection of the proposal of “Network of Excellence”; only the agreement of organisations would ensure its existence beyond proposal.

It is necessary to note that the DG of Cadastre of Spain submitted, as a consequence of the deadline of 7/6/2002, the proposal in order not to lose the potential opportunity offered. Waiting until the next meeting would have been too late.

Secondly, the DG of Cadastre of Spain considers that the integration of the Cadastral Permanent Committee in the FP6 offers a series of benefits that it is necessary to examine and discuss further. Among these benefits are, for example:

- The potential recognition by the European Commission (and in some cases of the respective national authorities) of the importance of the cadastre.
- The incorporation of the activities of the Committee in the structure of the Commission RTD programme, helping to avoid the current dispersion of the interest in the Cadastre of several DGs of the Commission.
- The possibilities of advances in mutual knowledge and co-ordination of the cadastres of the Member States, without loss of autonomy, identity, own competition, etc.
- The possibility of (partial) financing of projects and studies of all type of works, technological changes, etc.
- The possibility to finance workgroups made up of national experts, research personnel, etc. potential financing may also be available for the direct activities of the Permanent Committee, at least for initial stages of creation of the network.

- Possible benefits derived from other research programmes and technological development (for example, those related with the eGovernment, the electronic communication of different administrations of different countries, those derived of the Galileo project, etc.).

After this presentation unanimous support to the “Expression of Interest” is given.

9. - Declaration of Cadastre

Spain has proposed a document concerning a Declaration of Cadastre in the EU. The participants agree that the document needs a thorough study by a working group consisting of the editorial team and also including Belgium and Italy. The group should take into consideration the suggestions from the members and the candidate countries with the goal to have a declaration with general consensus. The task is however not of urgency.

Spain proposed to work with the initial document presented during the congress held in Granada last May.