

FIG Council  
Surveyor House  
Kopenhagen, Denmark

Solothurn – Switzerland, March 16, 2013

## **Elections during the Working Week 2012**

Mr. President, Members of the Council, dear colleagues

In the election of Commission Chairs 2014-2018 in Rome our well known and certainly hard working colleague Dr. Daniel Steudler lost again with a tiny difference. For geosuisse this is a rather frustrating result, as it is now the fourth failure for this position in the last 20 years. This also creates a certain reluctance among our geosuisse members concerning the FIG membership. They are annoyed to have done the necessary preparation work and to have decided on the necessary organizational and financial measures, and to see that this was for nothing.

Of course, we accept the result, but our analysis shows that FIG should rethink the nomination processes fundamentally. We think that the nomination process according to the FIG Internal Rules for the Election of Vice-Presidents and Commission Chairs Elect is on the one hand very democratic, but on the other hand endangers the sustainability of the FIG as a whole.

Nowadays every member association can nominate any person for a certain function, regardless if this person has a sound relation to and sufficient experience with FIG matters. The General Assembly cannot judge finally, if a person has the necessary experience and qualification. So it can happen that the Council as well as the Commissions are lead by persons who cannot sufficiently take care of the mandate. In case of a lack of support from the nominating association, the damage will be considerable.

We suggest that the nomination process is changed in the following sense:

- Not the member associations nominate a candidate any more directly. They can propose candidates to a respective nominating body;
- For Vice-presidents a regional body formed by the regional associations will have the right to nominate candidates. This makes it necessary that a candidate is better

known and that every region has a representative. The regional bodies have to check if a candidate is eligible and has sufficient support, also in financial terms;

- For Commission Chairs Elect, the nomination right should be with the Commissions themselves. They have to evaluate the candidates and to make sure that she/he is able to fulfill the job. The Commissions are the only bodies that have sufficient knowledge of their members and who are able to judge their eligibility. Commissions will as well negotiate with the national association of the candidate they wish to nominate.

With these adapted nomination principles the pseudo-democratic solution will be replaced by a procedure resulting in a sustainable staffing of the relevant FIG bodies. We think that this is in the sense of a sustainable development of the organization.

We suggest to the Council to reflect on these issues and to submit respective changes of the internal rules to the General Assembly.

With kind regards

geosuisse



Rudolf Küntzel, President

and



Jürg Kaufmann, FIG Honorary Member and Head of the Swiss delegation in Rome 2012