

Honorary FIG President Prof. EoE Dr.-Ing. Holger Magel

Dinner Speech

on occasion of 140 Years FIG Anniversary and Handover

9 November 2018 Athens at Benaki Museum

It was a great time!

Dear Madame President Prof. Potsiou, your Excellencies FIG Honorary Presidents and incoming FIG President, distinguished greek friends, dear FIG family, ladies and gentlemen,

Do you agree with me that we didn't have enough speeches at this 140th anniversary and hand over ceremony today? I think it's an urgent need for an additional, a final dinner speech and for a special laudation honouring our outgoing President Chryssy Potsiou.

First of all let me thank in the name of all participants our greek hosts, the technical chamber and all other domestic and international supporters, and naturally FIG for a well organized and successful international conference. Congratulations!

As we heard in several speeches today, especially in the speeches of Juha Talvitie, Chryssy and incoming President Rudolf Staiger FIG is in a very stable and promising condition and situation covering much more countries e.g. than in my time. And FIG is focusing on a lot of wellknown and some quite new important topics and issues. May be – this is at least my impression- that the topic of Land Management should get much more a prominent place in the programmes again like Cadaster, Land Administration and SDI do have. It's not enough to speak about Land Management without filling it's meaning and content with a clear conception and understanding and without concrete contributions (theories and models) on territorial, urban and rural planning and development in order to improve the living conditions everywhere in the country. It's also not enough to talk always about urban issues -live happens also and mainly in rural areas. The sources of urban problem lie in rural country. Therefore we first should improve rural life!

In my keynote on the new paradigm of territorial justice I have tried to make this clear again – like I did it already 16 years ago.

Why do I say this: Territorial and social imbalances happens in developing countries as well in developed countries. Therefore – this is my second observation and comment - FIG should try to find a balance in presentations between developed and developing countries in its programmes. I am afraid that FIG otherwise could lose its attraction and recognition in developed member associations. And: It's not always only about the undoubtedly important cadaster and social domain aspects – its much more, its about justice, about social and territorial justice in urban and rural regions. That is what we should understand with the **3 P's : People, Places and Politics!**

And a last proposal: Let's try to rise the entertainment factors of the many (too many?) presentations and speeches at our conferences. Sometimes it's very hard to remain concentrated..

But now let's focus on our Madame President: Dear Chryssy, I can not add any better compliments and awards as you have already got from Bob Foster, Juha Talvitie, Rudolf Staiger and Clarissa Augustinus during the hand over ceremony. I can only confirm all this wonderful praising of your presidency! **You have already written history, you were the first female president in 140 years. That is an incredible success, because it was the result of a hard work and no other reasons.** But let me add one more aspect which was not highlighted enough in all speeches: this is the fact, that you could manage both: FIG job and University job by teaching and researching. You even were so successful that you became appointed in this time full professor! That is really a great great success! It gives you independence for the future.

Independence, because now you are confronted with the question: **Is there a life after FIG presidency?** A life without FIG after having spent a lot of your lifetime for FIG during the last 24 years in various important functions. It would be very easy to give an answer if FIG had followed my proposal which I have made a decade before: In order to further use the experiences and competencies of Honorary presidents, FIG should establish an advisory board or a board of wise former FIG Presidents. Nothing happened to me after my step down: neither FIG nor DVW asked me to further serve them in a special circle. It's not really attractive for former presidents, at least for me, to only attend General assemblies and to talk something without any voting rights or influence. Other international associations have managed using the competence of their former leaders much better.

Chryssy what's now? **For me you are the most well known face of FIG, yes, you are Mrs. FIG!** Everybody knows and everywhere our members appreciate you – when I have started my FIG career you were already here and I am quite sure, you will still be here when I will disappear. You are not endangered to fall into a big hole now like it happens quite often to mostly alphas. You are not endangered because you are a female and are not an alpha animal! A life without FIG seems not imaginable for Chryssy! I am sure that you will have no problems to further serve FIG e.g. in the former role as delegate of your Greek association not being member in an advisory board of wise former presidents...

Dear FIG family, let's summarize our hope: Chryssy will remain being married with both with her husband Prof. Charalabos Ioannidis and with FIG! My deepest compliments go on this evening also to you, your Spectability Prof. Charalabos. I know that you always have extraordinarily supported your wife!

Chryssy, that was our hope. You have to decide now rightly!

Independent from your decision let me finally say: It was a great time with you and I hope for great times and good future again for all of us together with the new President and within our **“Mother FIG”!**

Dear Rudolf Staiger, we wish you good luck in your new influential position – please take care of our mother FIG!