

# Participation of Bulgarian Surveyors in the Life of FIG

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## SUMMARY

The Union of Surveyors and Land Managers in Bulgaria is a member of FIG since 1959. The Union organized the XVII Congress and the 50th Permanent Committee Meeting (1983) and hosted the 31st Permanent Committee Meeting (1964) in Sofia. The Union nominated for the period 1982-1985 five members of FIG Bureau - president, vice president, secretary general, treasurer, congress director.

The Bulgarian Bureau organised and conducted the 46th and 51st Permanent Committee Meetings in The Hague (1982) and Tokyo (1984).

Bulgaria has participated in 14 FIG congresses, has been the host of 5 international FIG symposia. It had two vice presidents – during the Swiss Bureau (1979-1983) and the Canadian Bureau (1985-1987), as well as chairmen of technical commissions II, V, VI, VII and an auditor during Canadian Bureau. Bulgaria has had one Honorary President (1986) and has two Honorary Members (1988, 1999) of FIG.

Sofia Congress received 1202 participants from 57 countries, 97 accompanying persons from 23 countries and about 1000 visitors by daily tickets. The nine technical commissions had 64 sessions with 349 papers. Forty-six companies, national member associations and universities participated in the exhibition and 1965 people joined technical visits and excursions.

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## 1. THE BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION

### 1.1. The Union of Surveyors and Land Managers in Bulgaria:

- Member of FIG since 1959 (26th Permanent Committee Meeting, Krakow)
- Organizer of the XVII FIG Congress and the 50th Permanent Committee Meeting, Sofia, 1983.
- Host of the 31st- Permanent Committee Meeting заседание, Sofia, 1964.
- Nomination for the period 1982-1985 five members of FIG Bureau:
  - Prof. Vassil Peevsky –President.
  - Boris Kristev, M.Sc. – Vice President.
  - Dr. Ivan Katzarsky – Secretary General.
  - Prof. Georgi Zlatanov – Treasurer.
  - Milan Milanov, M.Sc. – Congress Director.
  - The other two Vice Presidents:
    - Charles Henry Weir, M.Sc. (Canada).
    - Hans-Rudolf Dutschler, M.Sc. (Switzerland).

The Bulgarian Bureau organized and conducted the 46th and 51st Permanent Committee Meeting in The Hague (1982) and Tokyo (1984).

Bulgaria has participated in 14 FIG Congresses. Prof. V. Peevsky has been head of the Bulgarian delegation of 11 congresses.

### 1.2 Hosting Symposia and Participation in Governing Structures:

- Bulgaria has been host of 5 International FIG Symposia during 1964, 1972, 1978, 1985, 1991.
- In the FIG Bureau, beside in the Bulgarian Bureau Bulgaria has had two Vice Presidents:
  - Prof. Vassil Peevsky during the period 1979-1991 in Swiss Bureau.
  - Dr. Ivan Katzarsky during the period 1979-1991 in Canadian Bureau.
- Chairmen of technical commissions:
  - Prof. V. Peevsky (Com. II – twice), Prof. G. Zlatanov (Com. V), Dr. G. Milev (Com. VI), Prof.G. Kolev (Com. VII).
- Auditor of Canadian Bureau for the period 1985-1987 has been Prof. G. Zlatanov.

### **1.3 Changeover of the FIG Bureau**

Bulgarian Bureau, under chairmanship of Prof. Peevsky, has participated in joint meetings with Swiss and Canadian Bureau. During these meetings the official changeover the guidance and documentation of FIG from active to upcoming Bureau.

From 22 to 26 January 1982 in Sofia have carried out joint meetings of Swiss and Bulgarian Bureau. From Bulgarian party participated Prof. V. Peevsky, B. Kristev, C. H. Weir (Canada), Dr. I. Katzarsky, Prof. G. Zlatanov and M. Milanov. From Swiss Bureau participated Prof. H. Matthias, L. Linder –Aronson (Sweden), A. Bourcy (France), H.-R. Dutschler, W. Bregenzer and Prof. A. Jaquet. During the meeting, besides the official changeover, some problems connected to the activity of FIG for period 1982-1984 and coming congress in Sofia have been discussed. The Secretary General Dutschler handed in the FIG documentation to the new Secretary General Katzarsky.

The joint meetings of Bulgarian and Canadian Bureau have carried out the frame of two sessions during different time and in different places. During both sessions from Bulgarian party presented Bulgarian Bureau. From Canadian Bureau participated C. H. Weir, T. McCulloch, J. Talvitie (Finland), C. U. Youngs, M. Gaugreault and S. E. Daykin. On 15 and 16 October 1984 in Edmonton was the first session, and on 17 and 18 January 1985 in London – the second session. Prof. Peevsky, keeping in view his experience as president of FIG, gave some advices to the upcoming Bureau. Secretary General Katzarsky handed in the FIG documentation to the new Secretary General Youngs.

### **1.4 Honorary Titles**

- Prof Vassil Peevsky has been Honorary President of FIG since 1986.
- Honorary Members of FIG are:
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Katzarsky – since 1988.
- Prof. Dr. Georgi Milev – since 1999.

## **2. THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SURVEYNG AND MAPPING**

### **2.1 The Beginning**

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and The International Association of Cartography (ICA) have originated of International Union of Surveying and Mapping (IUSM) in Hannover, April 1984.

From FIG participated Prof. Vassil Peevsky, President and Dr. Ivan Katzarsky, Secretary General. From ISPRS and ICA participated also the presidents and the secretary generals. The purpose of the Union is to coordinate the activity and the programmes of tree sister organisations.

## **2.2 The Formal Foundation**

The First General Assembly of IUSM took place in Budapest, August 1989 during the Permanent Committee Meeting of FIG. President of the Union was Prof. Fraser Taylor (Canada) and Vice President was Prof. Kennert Trolegård (Sweden), who are presidents of ICA and ISPRS for the current period. Executive secretary of the Union was H. O'Donell (Canada).

It was expected that in near future The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and International Society of Mine Survey (ISMS) would join the Union.

The International Union of Surveying and Mapping interrupted its activity in 1999.

## **3. THE FIG CONGRESS IN SOFIA**

The XVII FIG Congress held in the National Palace of Culture in Sofia from 19 to 28 June 1983. This is the first and for the time being the only FIG Congress in East Europe.

The decision for the place of the Congress is decided during the 43th Permanent Committee Meeting, Ibadan (Nigeria), 1976. Bulgaria and Canada have participated in the run-off.

Theme of Sofia Congress: The Surveyor and Regional and Urban Planning.

### **3.1 Participation in the Congress:**

- 1202 persons (479 Bulgarian) from 57 countries.
- 97 accompany persons from 23 countries.
- About 600 guests from Bulgaria and abroad, as well more than 400 students and pupils has visited the technical sessions and the exhibition by daily tickets.

### **3.2 Opening of the Congress**

The Congress was open on 29 June in the morning in the National Palace of Culture in Sofia by the President of the State Council of Bulgaria. More than 3000 surveyors and guests from Bulgaria and abroad attended the event. Salutatory addresses were delivered by:

- Prof. Helmut Moritz (Austria) – President of the International Union of Geodesy (IUG).
- Dr. Frederick Doyle (USA) – President of the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).
- Prof. Jan Ormeling (The Netherlands) – President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA).
- Dr. Konstantin Georgiev (Bulgaria) – Vice President of the International Society of Mine Surveying (ISMS).
- Prof. Herbert Matthias (Switzerland) – Ex-President (1979-1981) and Honorary President of FIG.

The Congress Prize for the announced theme “Scientific and Technical Aspects of Automation in Surveying” was awarded by international commission to Juraj Valis (Czechoslovakia) for his thesis “Automatisiertes Informationssystem mit geodätischer Datenbank”.

The first congress day ended with a concert of the Symphony Orchestra of the Committee of Radio and Television, soloists of the Sofia Opera, male choir “Kaval” and the State Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances. More than 4000 persons were present at the concert.

### **3.3 The Administrative Activity of the Congress:**

- Three Permanent Committee Meetings of 19, 22 and 25 June.
- Two sessions of the General Assembly of 20 and 28 June.
- Three FIG Bureau Meetings.
- Joint meeting of the sister organizations:
  - International Association of Geodesy.
  - International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.
  - International Cartographic Association.
  - International Society of Mine Surveying.
  - International Federation of Surveyors.

### **3.4 The Technical Programme**

The technical commission sessions were opened on 21 June with a joint meeting of groups A (Com. I, II, III), B (Com. IV, V, VI), C (Com. VII, VIII, IX). Three keynote papers were delivered:

- “The Surveyor and Human Settlements” by Vice President Charles Henry Weir (Canada).
- “Inertia in a Silver Setting” by Prof. Jovke Alberda (The Netherlands).
- “Der Vermessungsingenieur und die Raumordnung und Stadtplanung” by Vice President Boriss Kristev (Bulgaria).

The nine technical commissions had 64 sessions, 349 papers were presented and discussed, i. e. an average of 5-6 papers per commission. The work of the different commissions was concluded with adoption of resolutions, appreciating the past activities and outlining the future tasks. The resolutions were approved by the General Assembly.

### **3.5 The Exhibition**

The Exhibition was opened on 20 June after opening ceremony of the Congress.

It has consisted of several parts:

- Industrial (Commercial) on an area of 1050 m<sup>2</sup> with 23 exhibitors from 14 countries.
- Exhibition of national associations from 18 countries. The exposition of Bulgarian occupied 280-m<sup>2</sup>.
- Scientific exhibition with participation of 5 universities and research institutes.

- Book exhibition of numerous publishing houses.
- Philately exhibition of the privet thematic collection of Prof. Marin Andreev (Bulgaria).

### **3.6 Technical Visits and Excursions**

In the technical visits, excursions and accompany persons programme took part 1965 persons, distributed as follows:

- Accompany persons programme – 472 persons.
- Evening tours – 441 persons.
- Sunday excursions – 297 persons.
- Technical visits – 325 persons.
- Post-congress tours – 18 persons.

### **3.7 Other Functions:**

- Specially for Sofia Congress the Czech surveyor Jiří Simek composed a melody, known as “FIG Fanfares”, which is now performed at all FIG events.
- For Sofia Congress a special post stamp was edited.
- For Sofia Congress a medallion was produced and distributed.
- By the initiative of the Bulgarian Bureau was designed a banner of FIG.
- An international commission under the chairmanship of Prof. Peevsky offered amendments to the FIG Statute.

### **3.8 Social Events:**

- A formal concert at the opening of the Congress.
- A reception given by the Vice President of the Council of Minister and Chairman of the Honorary Congress Committee.
- A reception given by the exhibitors.
- A reception given by the Mayor of Sofia.
- A performance of Sofia Opera – “Norma” by Bellini.
- A formal dinner in the restaurant of the National Palace of Culture.

### **3.9 Closing the Congress**

The Congress was closed on 28 June in the National Palace of Culture – Sofia, and attended by more than 600 persons.

- The FIG President Prof. Vassil Peevsky gave Certificates of Appreciation to the FIG member associations, to the Bureau members, to several Bulgarian institutions and individuals involved in the organization of the Congress.
- The Honorary Member and Ex-Vice President (1979-1981) of FIG Alain Bourcy (France) thanked the organizers on behalf of the participants in the Congress.
- Prof. Taichi Oshima invited the participant to attend the 51st Permanent Committee Meeting to be held in Tokyo, 1984.

- The future FIG President Charles Henry Weir invited the participants to attend the XVIII FIG Congress to be held in Toronto, 1986.
- The Minister of Construction and Architecture closed the Congress.

Unarguable success of the FIG Congress in Sofia is due to a lot of reasons. Between them are the successfully management of FIG by the Bulgarian Bureau, good organization and carrying out the Congress with support of several state authorities, as well as more than 100 surveyors volunteers.

The international surveying community gave well-deserved evaluation of the XVII FIG Congress in Sofia, which was widely announced in the statements of figures of FIG, and in the journals of national surveying unions members of FIG.

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## Appendix:

### CONGRESSES, PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARY GENERALS OF FIG

Congress	Year	Place	Presidents	Secr. Generals	Term
I	1878	Paris	E. Lefèvre de Sucy	Ozoré Pottier	?
II	1910	Brussels	A. Peereboom	J. S. Roupcinski	?
III	1926	Paris	P. Jarre	L. Butault	1927-1930
IV	1930	Zurich	S. Bertschmann	J. J. Allenspach	1931-1934
V	1934	London	H. C. Cole	A. H. Killick	1935-1938
VI	1938	Rome	E. Fanti	M. Girelli	1939-1942
VII	1949	Lausanne	M. Baudet	W. Bachmann	1948-1951
VIII	1953	Paris	H. Peltier	A. Wantz	1952-1955
IX	1958	Scheveningen / Delft	R. Roelofs	W. Baarda	1956-1959
X	1962	Vienna	K. Neumeier	A. Barvir	1960-1963
XI	1965	Rome	E. de Biagi	O. Fantini	1964-1966
XII	1968	London	B. J. Collins	R. Steel	1967-1969
XIII	1971	Wiesbaden	H. Draheim	R. Meyer	1970-1972
XIV	1974	Washington, D.C.	W. A. Radlinski	W. B. Overstreet	1973-1975
XV	1977	Stockholm	C.-O. Ternryd	L. Linder-Aronson	1976-1978
XVI	1981	Montreux	H. J. Matthias	H.-R. Dütschler	1979-1981
XVII	1983	Sofia	V. Peevsky	I. Katzarsky	1982-1984
XVIII	1986	Toronto	C. H. Weir	C. W. Youngs	1985-1987
XIX	1990	Helsinki	J. Talvitie	P. Raitanen	1988-1991
XX	1994	Melbourne	E. B. M. James	G. K. Lindsay	1992-1995
XXI	1998	Brighton	P. Dale	*	1996-1999
XXII	2002	Washington, D.C.	R. W. Foster	*	2000-2003
XXIII	2006	Munich	H. Magel	*	2004-2006

\* Structural changes are introduced in FIG: The 7-member Bureau (president, 3 vice presidents, secretary general and congress director) is transformed into 7-member Council with president, 5 vice presidents and congress director.