

**Report for the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week in Athens, May 2004**

**Regional Reports  
Groupe Francophone de la FIG (GFF)**

The French speaking group of FIG was created as an informal group just before the Brighton congress in 1998, from cultural and relational motivations initially triggered by the adoption of English as a unique working language. It holds annual meeting and dinner at each FIG working week, with some individual exchanges in between, and it strongly contributed to the various reflections which initiated the Task Force on Cultures and Languages and its related conclusions and incentives.

Most of the initial ideas and wishes (welcome of students, exchange of teaching material, translations, web site) depend on good will and money from private or governmental bodies, and/or on the action of benevolent people... Very few concrete things happened after the meeting in Washington, and a thrust for a new step was felt necessary.

As a matter of facts, several French-speaking countries from North or West Africa have recently joined FIG or are about to do it. They are faced with the problems of communication in English with FIG Office and Commissions, and they wonder about the actual feedback they can really return to their professional communities. There is undoubtedly an expectation for more support, already raised at the FIG WW 2003 in Paris, and a strong incentive for a change within GFF was then expressed later on in Marrakech – during this very successful Arab/French/English speaking regional meeting of FIG - in a meeting to which President Holger Magel had been invited. From the example and experience of Arab speaking countries, a commitment for going towards a more effective union and collaboration between French-speaking surveyors was taken there, and a preparatory committee was set up - with a date for a meeting in Paris in March 2004, hosted by the Ordre des Géomètres-Experts (OGE).

This meeting in Paris gathered committee members from Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Belgium and France (from both OGE and AFT). Under sole fundamental motivations on professional exchanges, education, training, communication, documentation and representation of the profession at decisional levels, it has been agreed to formalise this union of French speaking surveyors as the “Fédération des Géomètres Francophones”. Collective or individual membership will be considered in accordance with the FIG definition of surveyors.

Such an evolution of the initial GFF is therefore a positive and constructive step for a better efficiency. Similarly to the Arab Union of Surveyors, this so-called FGF is not at all, at any respect, seceding from FIG. It intends to be an *active, effective and usable* mean to foster the exchanges (at mutual benefit) between the French speaking surveyors spread worldwide - and it will be a loyal partner of FIG, acting as a complementary body for the communities concerned.

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Present spokesman of GFF