

First of all, I have to say that we are very proud of Chryssy Potsiou.

She is the first woman to become FIG President. At the same time she is one Greek taking such a high position and hopefully she will not be the last.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, dear friends, welcome to Greece.

The TCG has been founded 80 years ago in 1935 and it is a public legal entity with elected administration. Its headquarters are here in Athens and has branches in 17 geographical regions in Greece. The TCG has more than a hundred and ten thousand engineers and members comprising of all the engineers disciplines, as well as the architects. There are mainly Civil engineers, Architect engineers, Mechanical engineers, Electrical engineers, Rural and Survey engineers, Chemical engineers, Mining and Metallurgical engineers, Naval architects, Marine engineers and Electronic engineers.

A prerequisite for being a member of the TCG is to be licensed as a qualified engineer for architect and to be a graduate of Engineer and Architect Schools of Greek universities or equivalent schools from abroad. And the TCG is an authorized body to provide work licenses to engineers of all disciplines as well as architects, graduating in Greece or abroad. The licenses are awarded after examinations. Examinations take place for 3 or 4 times a year.

On its aim it is developing science and technology in sectors related to the disciplines of its members for the economic, social and cultural development of the country in accordance with the principles of sustainability and environmental protection. The TCG is the technical advisor of state.

In particular, it studies on its own initiative or upon request, by itself or in coordination with the other scientific institutions, any technical, economic or development matter that is interesting to the society.

It also, expresses official opinion on legislative issues on these matters. Advises on issues within its scope, upon request by competent authorities or other institutions of the public sector or unions. Surveys the activities of its members as well as related construction or other industries for the benefit of the state or other institutions. Assists in the proper formation and implementation of development projects and the utilization of natural resources. For the

improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the environment, the TCG carries out research and studies as well as guidelines for standards, regulations and contracts.

The TCG informs the public by issuing announcements, publications, etc., on any subject within its scope, in order to render same more easily understood. Participates in International Organizations, in Unions and Federations of Engineers, develops relations with similar organizations of other countries and organizes conferences, exhibitions and other events to promote its scope. Carries out surveys, appraisals, valuations, arbitration on all matters related to the planning and construction of technical works.

Dear colleagues,

TCG is of service to its members by Organizing and conducting examinations, and awarding professional licenses. Keeps the records of individual members and corporate entities. Strives to secure equitable remuneration for the services provided by its members? Cares for the employment, continuing education, social security, protection and promotion of the status of its members. Publishes newsletters, information bulletins and other editions. Investigates new forms of professional activities for its members. Upholds the enforcement of the code of ethics, as applicable to the professions of its members and finally TCG is trying to secure integrity and where there is any mutating factor accuse, appraises discipline against the members of TCG. That's the TCG.

Let's give you some milestones, that of the coordination and participation of TCG to the FIG. I think it joined the FIG forty seven years ago and their milestone was in 2004, ten years before when we organized the FIG working week of 2004 in Athens. Then I was in presidency of the HARSE on that time and now Chryssy is elected as a president to lead and serve FIG for the next four years.

Dear colleagues, we live in the century of the unification. There are open markets, no boundaries, everything is under formation. During the last years as you know, there is the crisis in Greece and the TCG cut budget about 60%. From something like 50, 60 million € down to 12 million € per year and the revenues for our members is just 10 million € per year. The unemployment of Engineers in

Greece now is more than 35% of the population...of the engineers I mean. More than 36.000 Engineers out of 110.000 they don't have money to pay their social security fees for the year 2015. That means that we need profession decision makers. We need to spread the knowledge, the experience and the studies. And finally, we demand politics for the community as logical humans.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends we value your contribution to this kick-off event.

We thank you all, all of you, for your participation and we are optimistic that in the new 4 years period, our collaboration will be fruitful and will bring useful results for the advancing of the professionals all over the world, but within our greater region as well.

We are more than certain for your success, for her success, for our success.

Chronis Akritidis

General Secretary of TCG